

U.S., West German rivalry on rise in Europe

BY FRED FELDMAN

A meeting of the heads of state of the seven strongest imperialist powers concluded in Paris July 16 with a declaration proclaiming unanimity on broad generalities about trade, the foreign debt of semicolonial countries, and the environment.

The main political and economic issues that divide the governments of the Group of Seven — Britain, Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), Italy, Japan, and the United States — were set aside.

Instead, the summit was staged as a public relations extravaganza intertwined with official celebrations of the bicentennial of the French revolution.

The outcome of one of the few minor differences of opinion that became public knowledge, however, highlighted big changes that have taken place over the last quarter century in the relative political and economic strength of the member states.

Change is registered

This was the decision that West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, rather than U.S. President George Bush, coordinate a program to expand economic ties with Poland and Hungary. In the July 17 *New York Times*, correspondent Peter Kilborn termed this "one of the real surprises of the meeting."

The U.S. proposal, which followed Bush's trip to the two Eastern European countries, was that the operation be managed from Washington. This "was not acceptable to Europe," Kilborn was told by an official of the European Community.

The European Community, often referred to as the Common Market, is made up of 12 European governments that attempt to coordinate economic and other policies.

The decision highlighted the re-emergence of the capitalist rulers of West Germany as competitors with U.S. capitalists for political influence within both the European Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the imperialist military alliance established in 1949.

For more than 20 years following World War II U.S. capitalism's political and economic domination was reinforced by investments and loans for the rebuilding of war-shattered Western Europe.

For the last two decades, however, U.S. imperialism has faced halting growth, increasing inflation and instability, and heightened price competition from imperialist competitors — above all the West German and Japanese capitalists.

West Germany, with a population of 60 million, has led the world in exports for each of the past three years and produces one-quarter of the gross domestic product of the European Community.

The West German rulers are playing a central role in pushing forward a plan to remove most barriers to the flow of goods, labor, and capital among the European Community members by the end of 1992. Under present conditions, this will strengthen the position of West German capitalism.

Conflicts over the plan for a common market have erupted with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who fears that British capitalists will lose even more ground to

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Eastern strike rallies to protest new flights



At New York's La Guardia Airport, hundreds marched July 14 to protest Eastern Airlines' strikebreaking "reorganization" plan (story on page 13). More protests are planned in Newark, New Jersey; New York; and other cities.

BY SUSAN LaMONT

Striking Eastern Airlines workers in a number of cities are calling for rallies and picket lines on and around August 1 to respond to Eastern's projected increase in flights that day. The actions are part of a step-up in strike support activity that began around July 2, when the first phase of Eastern's flight buildup kicked in.

A "solidarity picket" is set for Los Angeles July 29. Rallies are planned in Detroit, August 1; Newark, August 4; Albany, New York,

August 1; and Milwaukee, July 30.

A labor demonstration to support the strikers will also take place in New York July 28, called by the International Association of Machinists, Air Line Pilots Association, and Transport Workers Union, which represents Eastern's flight attendants. The New York Central Labor Council is also backing the action. Participants will assemble at 11:00 a.m. at 51st Street and Rockefeller Plaza in midtown Manhattan. The rally will be held at 10 Rockefeller Plaza, site of Continental

Airlines' ticket offices.

Strike supporters in New York plan to follow this up with a day of expanded picketing at La Guardia Airport August 1.

On July 17 the Federal bankruptcy judge overseeing the Eastern bankruptcy proceedings in New York issued a temporary restraining order barring strikers from "harassment and intimidation of [Eastern] passengers and employees" at New York's La Guardia Air-

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Curtis wins right to non-English journals

BY KATE KAKU

DES MOINES, Iowa — The international campaign to protest the denial of non-English literature and letters to Mark Curtis and other prisoners at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa has scored some impressive gains.

On July 11 the prison authorities granted permission for Curtis to receive the June 1989 issue of *Perspectiva Mundial* and the May 1989 issue of *Lutte ouvrière*.

In a letter to *Perspectiva Mundial* Curtis wrote, "This is a very big victory for everyone here. Thanks for your efforts and those of your readers for expanding the democratic rights of working people who are behind bars."

Earlier, on June 9, Curtis won access to a Spanish-English dictionary and *501 Spanish Verbs*, which had previously been denied.

Letters and other materials sent to Curtis that are not written in English are still denied by the prison officials.

Curtis, a packinghouse worker and political activist from Des Moines, is serving 25 years on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

Hazel Zimmerman, the secretary of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, stated, "Thanks to the public pressure created by the worldwide campaign against the prison authorities, we have won this first step in a victory that we must now relentlessly pursue to completely remove all restrictions based on language and the rights of all prisoners to

share literature."

The defense committee has campaigned internationally to end the ban on Spanish and other non-English publications, literature, and correspondence sent to Curtis and other prisoners.

Prison officials have denied inmates non-English literature and correspondence unless it is in the prisoners' "primary language." The authorities claim these materials may contain security threats. The defense committee has demanded that prisoners have the right to receive, read, and share literature of their choice.

The defense committee asks supporters of democratic rights and justice for Mark Curtis

to continue the campaign against the prison authorities' denial of non-English correspondence and for ending the restrictions of prisoners' right to share literature with each other.

Protests should be addressed to: John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205.

Copies should be sent to: Attorney General Thomas J. Miller, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; Paul Grossheim, Director of the Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E. 12th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; and the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Ballot drive for socialists gets good start in New York

BY SELVA NEBBIA

NEW YORK — Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party campaign are getting a good response here as they petition to place the names of SWP candidates on the November ballot.

Petitioning began on July 11, and a major mobilization was held on Saturday, July 15. So far campaign supporters have gathered 5,450 signatures. According to Mike Shur, chairperson of the citywide campaign, this "is a good start in the campaign to collect

15,000." The legal requirement for ballot status is 7,500 signatures, but to assure success, the campaigners are shooting for double that number.

The signatures are to get ballot status for James Harris, SWP candidate for mayor; Jerry Freiwirth, candidate for city council president; and Vivian Sahner, candidate for city comptroller.

The July 15 petitioning was capped off by

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Fund director's visit wins support for New York mural

BY GEOFF MIRELOWITZ

LOS ANGELES — A recent visit by Pathfinder Mural Fund Director Mark Severs revealed the enormous opportunities for winning support for the mural project.

Severs' stay in Los Angeles was intended to lay the groundwork for a major tour that he and the prominent South African artist Dumile Feni will conduct in September. At Severs' first stop here, a house meeting at the home of film director Nick Castle and Charlene Castle, supporters of the mural project volunteered to pitch in and made the preparatory tour a genuine event.

Several house meetings were held, including one attended by 25 people organized by mural supporter Bobbie Bagel in San Diego. That meeting raised \$700 and began organizing a planning meeting for the fall tour.

In Ventura mural supporter Marcy Greenhut organized a gathering at the home of Milt Lesnick that raised an additional \$300.

At a gathering at the home of photographer Della Rossa in Los Angeles a number of people, including experienced muralists, offered valuable advice on technical matters, including how best to preserve the mural when it is completed.

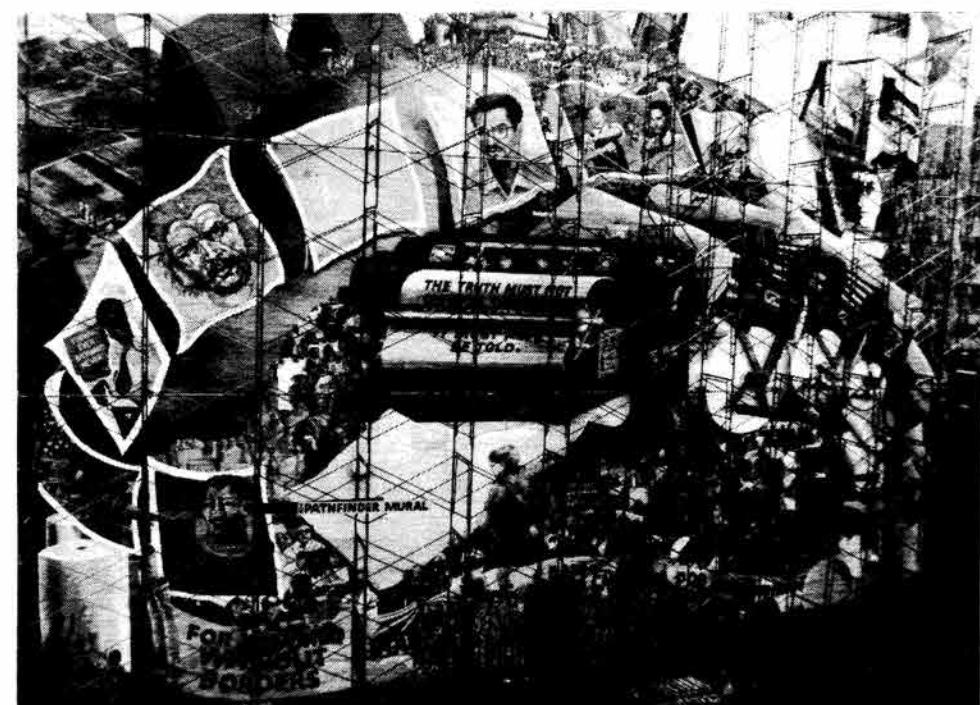
Severs' visit was capped by a meeting that drew 70 people to the Pathfinder bookstore

on July 13. The gathering was organized on less than one week's notice. Mainly publicized by word of mouth, it attracted several people who had met or spoken with Severs during the preceding few days and who had had little or no previous contact with the mural project.

Two young artists, James Goodwin and Ian White, who plan to paint on the mural in the fall, participated in the meeting. White is the son of Charles White, one of the most accomplished U.S. artists of this century. Charles White, who is now deceased, is internationally known for his powerful depictions of the lives of Blacks, including in mural works.

A third artist, Marjan Hormozi, a young Iranian woman living in Los Angeles, also met with Severs and plans to go to New York to paint one of the two founders of scientific socialism, Karl Marx, on the mural.

In presenting a slideshow on the mural to the July 13 meeting, Severs also included slides of the work of Hormozi, White, and



Militant/Alicia Merel

A mural six stories high is being painted on the side of the Pathfinder Building by artists from around the world.

Goodwin as well as the work of Dumile Feni — including both his work on the mural (he has already painted Nelson Mandela) and his sculpture and poster work.

Also attending the meeting were representatives from the African Studies Department

at the University of California at Los Angeles, a group of local activists in the African National Congress of South Africa, and workers from several industries in the area.

A total of \$2,200 was raised in the course of Severs' visit.

Marchers defend Indian rights in Wisconsin

BY TOM O'BRIEN

LAC DU FLAMBEAU, Wis. — More than 500 people demonstrated in Minocqua, about 15 miles southeast of here, on July 4, in defense of Indian treaty rights to harvest fish off-reservation. They came from cities and reservations throughout the upper Midwest.

Minocqua has been a center of opposition to the treaty rights. The demonstration was organized by the Wa-Swa-Gon Treaty Association, whose headquarters is on the Lac du Flambeau Chippewa reservation near Minocqua. Tom Maulson, a tribal judge who is a leader of the association, called the march a success. "We told the people in Minocqua that racism can no longer stay there," he said.

The right to fish throughout the northern third of Wisconsin, as well as in parts of Michigan and Minnesota, was guaranteed to the Chippewa people in a series of treaties signed in the first half of the 19th century. These rights have been ignored by state officials for many decades, but a series of federal court decisions since 1983 have ruled in favor of the treaty rights.

The Chippewa, who are also called Ojibwa and Anishinabe, don't fish for sport but to make their living. Since their treaty rights have been affirmed, they have been under attack by resort owners. Two organizations, Protect Americans' Rights and Resources, and Stop Treaty Abuse, have organized mobs to harass the Chippewa as they fish. They

throw rocks at them, destroy their gill, nets, and call them "timber niggers."

The July 4 demonstration started with a rally on the Lac du Flambeau reservation. Several American Indian Movement (AIM) activists from the Twin Cities spoke, including Clyde Bellecourt, Eddie Benton-Benai, Bea Swanson, and Vernon Bellecourt. Chris Nisan, a Black antiracist activist from St. Paul, also spoke.

Following a pipe ceremony, the treaty supporters organized a car caravan into Minocqua, where they marched as a contin-

gent in the July 4th parade.

Many bystanders yelled encouragement to the contingent, and a few joined it. A large number in the crowd, however, screamed racial slurs and obscenities at the contingent.

Many of the marchers came from reservations in Wisconsin and Michigan. AIM brought a contingent from the Twin Cities, and other activists from the Twin Cities participated as well. Many marchers also came from Milwaukee, Chicago, and Madison, Wisconsin.

Pathfinder bookstore to open in Sweden

BY MARIA HAMBURG

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Supporters of Pathfinder Press here have signed a lease to open a bookstore, a step that will make Pathfinder's revolutionary literature more accessible to workers and activists.

The new Pathfinder Bookstore is located near the center of Stockholm at Vikingagatan 10, near the Sankt Eriksplan metro station and the Carlsberg train station. It will also be a center for the distribution of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Lutte ouvrière* and the location for Militant Labor Forums.

While the store is not yet officially open, visitors have already come in. A student from Latin America and an African refugee

dropped by the bookstore one Saturday afternoon after they ran into a Pathfinder literature table on the street. Both helped with cleanup activities going on, while engaging in political discussions.

A major construction effort is projected to prepare the bookstore for its opening in August.

A special fund of 100,000 krona (US\$16,000) is being launched to cover the costs of construction, materials, and lease. Contributions to the fund in the form of money orders can be sent to Pathfinder Support Fund, Box 5024, S-125 05 Älvsjö, Sweden. In Europe, Postal Giro number is 423 13 28-8.

'One of the largest publishing advertisements ever'

Publishers Weekly, a major book trade journal distributed to publishers, libraries, and retail bookstores across the United States, called the Pathfinder Mural Project "probably one of the largest publishing advertisements ever."

The July 7 issue of the magazine carried a photo of the mural on the "Highlights" page.

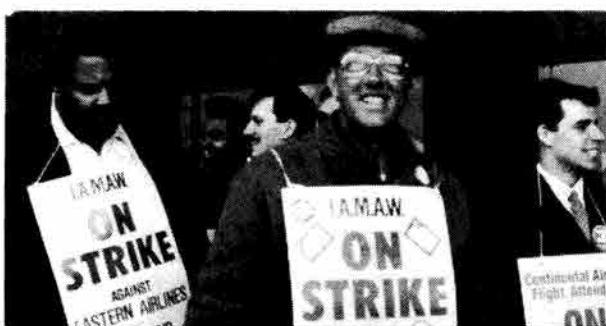
The adjoining caption provided a brief description of the project: "Painted by an international group of volunteer artists, [the mural] depicts a giant printing press churning out the images of Pathfinder's cast of international radical authors. These include such revolutionary political figures as Malcolm X, Nelson Mandela, Mother Jones, Che Guevara, Karl Marx, and V.I. Lenin."

Publishers Weekly has in past issues covered bookfairs in Cuba and Nicaragua. It has also carried articles about the Grenadian government's banning of Pathfinder titles and the FBI's attempts to get librarians to provide it information about book borrowers.

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U.S. gov't steps up harassment of Cuba

TV Martí to be launched in violation of Cuban sovereignty

BY SELVA NEBBIA

In the last few months Washington has stepped up its provocations against Cuba.

"We must come to grips with the reality," stated Gen. Raúl Castro, minister of Cuba's armed forces, on June 14, "that in recent months there have been statements and actions by the United States that are clearly part of a deliberate plan to create an artificial heightening of bilateral tension, creating friction and difficulties with our country."

Raúl Castro was addressing a gathering celebrating the 28th anniversary of Cuba's Western Army. "Above all," he said, "we must note the gradual steps taken in Washington with the open support of the Bush administration to implement the illegal and immoral plan for an anti-Cuba TV station, which is an act of aggression and a violation of the sovereignty of our country."

The Cuban leader was referring to U.S. preparations for the November launching of television broadcasts over Cuban territory.

Named TV Martí, after the Cuban independence fighter José Martí, the station was initially discussed when the U.S. government launched radio broadcasts over Cuban territory through Radio Martí in May 1985.

High-ranking Interior Ministry officials replaced in Cuba

BY SELVA NEBBIA

The Cuban government accepted the resignations of six high-ranking Cuban officials of the country's security apparatus and fired a seventh on July 13.

The July 14 *Granma*, the newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, stated, "The deficiencies promoted by the leadership" of the Cuban Interior Ministry (MININT), "gave rise to the actions of a group of officials inside Department MC that went unpunished for more than two years."

Gen. Pascual Martínez Gil resigned as vice-minister of the MININT. He was replaced by Gen. Romárico Sotomayor, who had been chief of staff of the Eastern Army and is an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Cuban CP.

The head of the Interior Ministry, Gen. José Abrantes Fernández, had been replaced on June 29.

Department MC was a special department created within the Ministry of the Interior to circumvent the economic blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba. The department arranged the entry into Cuban territory of medical supplies, spare parts, and computer components from the United States. It was through this department that Antonio La Guardia and a group around him in the MININT engaged in drug trafficking.

After a much publicized investigation and trial that detailed the drug trafficking and other illegal operations of both the MININT group and of Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa Sánchez of the Ministry of the Army, La Guardia, Ochoa, and two others were executed on July 13.

Speaking before the Council of State, which had met to review the death sentences, Cuban President Fidel Castro explained that the accused members of the MININT had caused "tremendous damage" to the ministry, leaving it "morally destroyed."

The MININT, explained Castro, "has to be rebuilt, has to be redone."

Also accepted for "similar reasons," reported *Granma*, was the resignation of Gen. Germán Barreiro Caramés, who was chief of intelligence of the MININT. He was replaced by Gen. Jesús Bermúdez Cutiño, a Central Committee member who had been chief of intelligence of the Ministry of the Armed Forces.

Bermúdez also had acted as secretary in the hearings held by the Honor Tribunal of 47 army generals and admirals that heard the case of Ochoa in June and served to uncover his illicit actions.

Gen. Roberto González Caso was fired as head of the Department of Immigration.

Like Radio Martí, TV Martí is part of the Voice of America, the broadcasting arm of the United States Information Agency. It is also backed by the Cuban-American National Foundation, a lobby of anti-Castro Cuban exiles in the United States.

When Radio Martí began broadcasting, the Cuban government sent a protest to the U.S. government denouncing "the gross insult of using the glorious name of José Martí for these broadcasts, deeply wounding the feelings of the Cuban people."

The project for the TV broadcasts, approved last July by the U.S. Senate at a cost of \$40 million, will send television signals received via satellite from Washington through an aerostat floating 30,000 meters above the Florida Keys near Cuba. It will begin as a 90-day pilot project broadcasting three hours a day through February 1990.

TV Martí will operate on one of Cuba's domestic wavelengths, thus violating an international treaty on radio and television transmission signed by both Cuba and the United States in 1982 stipulating that normal TV transmission wavelengths are for domestic use only.

In his June 14 speech Raúl Castro also reported on other demonstrations of Washington's "imperial hostility toward Cuba." He cited the U.S. Global Shield '89 military exercise.

In a front-page article in the June 4 weekly English edition of *Granma*, the newspaper of the Cuban Communist Party, Gen. Jesús Bermúdez Cutiño explained, "Every spring, the U.S. armed forces spend three weeks carrying out the Global Shield exercises, which are a rehearsal for total nuclear war.

"In the most active stage of these exercises, lasting slightly less than one day," he said, "hundreds of strategic bombers armed with nuclear bombs and missiles take off almost simultaneously from their bases [in Florida and Louisiana] and head straight for their objectives, effect a simulated launching of weaponry, and return to their regular or alternate bases."

"Meanwhile," Bermúdez pointed out, "submarines armed with nuclear missiles go into launch position and in conjunction with ground-based missiles undertake a simulated



Militant
Miami protest against Radio Martí in 1987. The proposal to launch TV Martí is also a provocative action against Cuba.

launching of their cargo of destruction and death.

"The targets, of course, are within the socialist countries, among them Cuba," he added.

Raúl Castro noted, "While in overall terms the mobilization of their forces and equipment on the world scene was less than in previous years," during this year's exercise with regard to Cuba "there were many more U.S. planes than on previous occasions."

The basic objective in Cuba of the Global Shield '89 exercise was "testing the ability of their B-52 strategic bombers to strike conventional air blows against us," Castro pointed out. "Meanwhile, their all-purpose fighters, several dozen at a time, were undertaking flights at very low altitudes off the Cuban coast to try to avoid our radar."

"To top it off," continued the army chief, "a counterrevolutionary radio broadcast from Miami reported something that was as un-

precedented as it was repugnant. During the rehearsal of a bombing against Cuba, the traitor Del Pino was on board one of the U.S. aircraft carriers, invited by his masters, with the rank of general."

Cuban Gen. Rafael del Pino Díaz defected to the United States flying a Cessna plane to a U.S. naval base in Florida in May 1987.

These examples, stated Castro in his speech, were intended "to reiterate the decisive importance" for Cuba of strengthening its defensive capacities to "defend the revolution at any cost."

"For the idea of a socialist community that is weak, in crisis, split and losing ground," concluded Castro, "may lead the most reactionary and adventurist imperialist sectors to grow bold in their aggressive actions against the unconquerable bastion of socialism that Cuba represents in this part of the world."

Meetings in U.S. to celebrate Cuban revolution

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Celebrations of the Cuban revolution's 30th anniversary are planned in major cities on both U.S. coasts on the weekend of July 29-30. The events are planned to coincide with the July 26 celebrations in Cuba.

July 26, annually observed in Cuba, is the date in 1953 when Fidel Castro led an assault on the Moncada army barracks. This began a popular struggle that led to the workers and peasants overthrowing the hated dictator Fulgencio Batista and the capitalist government in 1959.

In Boston, the José Martí Project is sponsoring a program titled "30 years of the Cuban Revolution — a Cuban-American Perspective." Andrés Gómez will be the main speaker. He is a founder of the Antonio Maceo Brigade, an organization of Cubans in the United States, and editor of *Areito* magazine, published in Miami. A party with slide showings, videos, and photo exhibits will follow the speeches.

The José Martí Project is a new coalition in Boston initiated by members of the Venceremos Brigade and others who have traveled to Cuba. Its aim is to promote exchange and mutual understanding between the people of Cuba and the United States, work toward ending the U.S. blockade of Cuba, and achieve the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Puerto Rican and Haitian activists have joined the project in building the meeting. It will take place at the Old Cambridge Bridge Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Avenue, in Cambridge. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Supporters in San Francisco of the Cuban revolution are building two events. A concert by the Afro-Cuban group Conjunto Céspedes will be held at the La Peña Cultural Center in Berkeley on July 29 at 7:30 p.m. Repre-

sentatives of the Venceremos Brigade will present a report on their recent trip to Cuba at the concert.

A *tardeada* (afternoon celebration) is set for Sunday, July 30, at the San Francisco Women's Building, 3453 18th Street, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. The *tardeada* includes reports from the 1989 Venceremos Brigade, poetry readings, music by popular local artists, dancing, and traditional Cuban food.

Announcements for the event have aired on public radio. Venceremos Brigade activists plan to publicize the Cuba event at a July 22 celebration of the Nicaraguan revolution. The *tardeada* is being sponsored by the Venceremos Brigade, Antonio Maceo Brigade, and Committee to Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution.

In Miami the Alliance of Cuban Workers, Peace Council, Antonio Maceo Brigade, Central America Solidarity Committee (LACASA), and Socialist Workers Party have joined forces for a July 29 event that will include the showing of made-in-Cuba videos about the rectification campaign and its progress. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Little Haiti Activities Center, 28 NE 54th Street.

The Venceremos Brigade in Los Angeles is organizing a celebration for both Cuba and the brigade titled "30 years of the Cuban Revolution and 20 years of the Venceremos Brigade." There will be talks about the history of Cuba, the brigade, and the current state of the U.S. government's disinformation campaign against Cuba. A dance follows the program. The celebration will take place at 2616 Hobart Avenue (at Adams), at 7:30 p.m. on July 29.

The New York celebration will be highlighted by speakers from the African National Congress of South Africa and the South West

Africa People's Organisation of Namibia. The organizers of the meeting are Casa de las Américas, an organization of Cubans in the United States who support the Cuban revolution; the Antonio Maceo Brigade, and Venceremos Brigade. The event will be held at the Casa de las Américas hall, 104 W. 14th Street, in Manhattan. It begins at 7:30 p.m. on July 29.

Chicago's Cuba solidarity activists have joined with Nicaragua support groups to build a celebration of both revolutions. A live satellite hookup with President Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua will be featured. Dancing and music are also planned. The festivities begin at 8:00 p.m. at St. Pius Church, 1901 S. Ashland, on July 22. The July 22 Coalition is the sponsor.

Come to the
International
Active Workers &
Socialist Educational
Conference

The Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance will host the conference in Oberlin, Ohio, August 5-9. The YSA will also hold its 26th National Convention August 10 and 11.

For more information, contact the distributor of the *Militant* nearest you (see the directory on page 12), or write to the SWP, 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014.

'Right to read should not end at jail house door'

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year jail term on frame-up charges of rape and burglary. The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an

right under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to read what he chooses should cease at the jail house door.

Two members of United Food

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

international campaign for justice for Curtis. To contact the committee, write Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Telephone (515) 246-1695.

Measures to ban non-English-language publications and correspondence in prisons are stirring up debate from different quarters. Last week's issue of the *Militant* reported the new policy of banning non-English-language publications in Georgia prisons.

It is almost identical to the policy in Iowa prisons, which is used by prison authorities to deny Mark Curtis non-English materials.

"To put it in plain English," the editors of the *Atlanta Constitution* stated July 1, "the Georgia Department of Corrections policy allowing wardens to deny inmates foreign-language publications goes too far.

"The policy unfairly discriminates against inmates whose first language is not English, and it needlessly provides them a legitimate grievance against corrections officials."

A letter from Attorney Philip Hornik of Portland, Oregon, protesting the ban at Curtis' prison gets more to the point of prisoners' rights.

Addressed to Warden John Thalacker, it says, "I urge you to immediately discontinue this restriction on other written materials that Mr. Curtis may receive. I fail to see how this restriction serves any legitimate security concerns of the prison. I don't think that Mr. Curtis'

and Commercial Workers Local 99R at Sunland Beef in Phoenix sent a letter in Spanish to Mark Curtis. Most workers at Sunland are Mexican or Chicano. Sixteen other workers also signed it as a gesture of support for Curtis. It reads:

"Dear Mark,

"We are packinghouse workers in Arizona. We face the same problems you were fighting against. We are trying to organize the union. We are protesting the denial you face in receiving literature in Spanish and other languages. There are many other compañeros like us whose first language is not English and who would like to communicate with you.

"Your case is ours and we will try to get the union to support you. We are sure that you will be free soon and you will be able to continue in the important struggle for all workers.

"Yours in a just struggle."

John East, chairperson of the London Met South Branch of the National Communications Union, wrote to Curtis. "The injustice of your case is being brought to the eyes of the world by your support group," he said, "and we know that an international campaign can put pressure on the United States to see that justice is done.

"Take heart that your campaign is bringing together workers across all boundaries uniting them around common aims — An injury to one



Militant Kate Kaku speaks at New Zealand Curtis support rally at the end of May.

is an injury to all."

East reports that the Met South Branch voted to become a sponsor of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Kate Kaku, a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and

Curtis' wife, toured New Zealand at the end of May. Besides three Curtis support rallies organized to hear Kaku, she was able to speak to many other workers and activists across the country.

Kaku kicked off her tour of the Wellington area with a visit to Waingawa meat works where she

spoke to a special shop-floor meeting of 150 workers. Many workers thanked her for presenting the case and expressed interest in learning more.

In the South Island, Kaku toured the Ocean Beach meat works at the invitation of the union. There she spoke with groups of workers and union delegates. One worker explained that he began to learn Farsi so he could speak with his Iranian coworkers.

He said that the Ocean Beach bosses had a hostile reaction similar to the one Curtis received from the Swift company when Curtis studied Spanish.

Swift, a meat-packing company with a plant in Des Moines, employs many Mexican and Central American immigrant workers. Curtis, an employee at Swift at the time of his frame-up, improved his Spanish to better communicate with his coworkers and to help build unity among them.

Kaku also spoke with Pacific Island immigrants and met with well-known Maori land-rights activist Eva Rickard, who became an endorser of the defense campaign.

Campus meetings were held for Kaku in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch.

Major dailies — such as the Christchurch *Press* and *Star* and the Wellington *Dominion* — featured the tour, as did some campus newspapers.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee received \$3,507 this week bringing the total collected to \$19,389. The committee is aiming to raise \$100,000 by September 14 to cover legal expenses and the costs of publicizing the Curtis case around the world. Contributions are urgently needed. They should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

Activist teacher framed on drug charges in W. Virginia

BY JIM ALtenberg

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. — "If my rights are violated, your rights are violated," Phil Carter, a local civil rights leader, told people gathered at the Ebenezer Community Outreach Center here recently.

The Huntington chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) sponsored the meeting to protest the frame-up of Henry Clay Moore, a Black teacher at Matewan Junior High. Matewan is in Mingo County 90 miles south of here.

Moore was convicted on false charges of smoking marijuana with five youths. He was sentenced to 4-20 years in the state penitentiary and fined \$30,000. His first motion for a new trial was denied. On July 5 the West Virginia Supreme Court ruled in favor of a second motion for a new trial. He is free on bail pending the retrial.

"People are here to rally and proclaim that Henry Clay Moore is innocent, Kent Bryson is innocent, and Mark Curtis is innocent," Carter announced in his opening statement to the 40 people attending.

Speakers included fighters against racism and police frame-ups. Michelle Thornhill described the fight she and Kent Bryson, her son, led at Huntington High School.

Bryson, a Black honor student and senior class president, was told by the principal that he could not speak at graduation ceremonies, though he had been slated to do so.

Black students walked out of school in protest, and Bryson and Thornhill enlisted the support of the NAACP to win back his place in the graduation ceremonies. Bryson did speak, and the NAACP is demanding the principal be fired. The event has sparked a serious discussion about racism in the local schools.

Toba Singer, speaking on the frame-up of Mark Curtis, described both Curtis and Henry Clay Moore as "ordinary working people who did right according to their beliefs."

"Curtis," Singer explained, "did the same thing that many people in this room do: protest racist actions and defend unions, Blacks, immigrants, and women. For this he was framed on rape and burglary charges and imprisoned."

Singer reviewed the political fight supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee are waging to free Curtis. This includes protesting against restrictions on reading material in languages other than English that prison officials have imposed on him.

Three people present signed up to become endorsers of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee.

As Carter, who is president of the Huntington NAACP, introduced Henry Clay Moore, he noted that Moore is "an image of confidence" as a teacher and "some people don't like that."

Events leading to frame-up

Moore described the facts behind his frame-up going back to when he began teaching at Matewan in 1985.

He alerted school administrators to what he considered to be an unruly situation with the students. Receiving no answers to problems he raised, Moore joined with concerned parents and other teachers to form the Parent Advisory Council.

PAC pressed for improvements in Matewan schools. The group exposed wrongdoings such as a Matewan High School counselor's abuse of students' confidentiality, blackmailing of students, and harassment of students who are Black.

Moore backed the PAC during the "pizza wars" when a new vice-principal suspended more than 150 students for continuing to buy pizza from a caterer's truck. For a year the PAC had been allowed to sell pizza to raise money for needed school improvements like air conditioning and athletic funds.

Moore refused to place students in special education when they didn't need it and

wouldn't give credit for course material not taught.

In 1987 the school principal and his sister, also a teacher at Matewan, rigged a PAC officers' election, trying to undermine the group's work.

A state inquiry into the Matewan schools was opened two months later. When investigators arrived on Dec. 3, 1987, Moore was sent out of town to review textbooks and prevented from ever talking with the investigators.

Two weeks later he was arrested and suspended from his teaching position. He was charged with giving drugs and liquor to five students in his home.

Moore's house was searched and 7.5 grams of marijuana were found. In West Virginia possession of this amount is a misdemeanor. Moore, however, was jailed and denied bail.

Story falls apart

At Moore's November 1988 trial the story fell apart. Five people testified that Moore had been with them during the time he was supposedly drinking and smoking marijuana with the students.

Four of the students recanted their earlier stories backing the charges, and said the fifth, son of a state trooper, provided the drugs.

Mingo County Judge Elliot Maynard claimed that Moore was ineligible for bail because he would try to intimidate the five students. In the judge's private chambers, however, the youths said Moore had never threatened them. In fact, it was the prosecuting attorney who did the threatening according to them.

"Trooper Zerkley said if we changed our story, when we turn 18 it will be hard for us," one youth said.

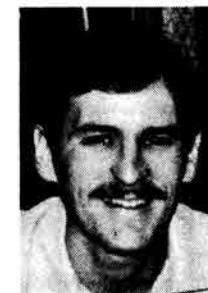
Despite all this, the judge refused to drop the charges. After 16 hours and pressure from the judge to decide, the jury, which included only one Black, found Moore guilty.

Andrew Pulley, chairperson of the June 18 meeting, urged everyone present to get behind the defense effort.

For more information, contact the Henry Clay Moore Defense Committee: P.O. Box 2862, Huntington, W. Va. 25728-2862. Telephone (304) 523-9209. Contributions are needed to meet defense expenses.

from PATHFINDER The Frame-up of Mark Curtis
A Packinghouse Worker's Fight for Justice
by Margaret Jayko

This pamphlet tells the story of Mark Curtis, a unionist and fighter for immigrant rights, who is serving a 25-year sentence in an Iowa prison on trumped-up rape charges. 71 pp., \$2.50.



Available at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12 or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Please include \$0.75 for postage and handling.)

Washington presses Palestinians to back election plan

BY HARRY RING

Washington is continuing to pressure the Israeli government to revive its plan for Palestinian elections. Both the White House and Congress see the plan as a means to try to end the Palestinian uprising without conceding to the demands of the Palestinian people, who want the Israeli occupiers off their back.

Meanwhile, Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, ripped the Israeli regime's stiffened stand and warned of Israeli plans to "escalate the repression."

The election plan was coauthored by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the Likud Party and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin of the Labor Party. Subsequently Shamir accepted a motion by the Likud's right wing binding him to terms that would make the plan non-negotiable, thereby precluding Palestinian acceptance of it.

Under the plan, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would vote for representatives who would negotiate some form of limited self-government under continued Israeli military rule.

The plan includes at least four conditions: no voting will be held until the Palestinian uprising ends; Palestinians living in Jerusalem will not be permitted to vote in the elections; Jewish settlers will continue to move into the West Bank and Gaza; and the Israeli government will not give up any territory — that is, there will be no Palestinian state.

Washington displeased

The Likud action was received coldly by Washington and sparked a flurry of protest by Israel's Labor leaders. Initially, they threatened to bolt their coalition with the Likud but dropped the threat after Washington expressed a dim view of this.

"The Israeli peace process should be given every possibility of success," a U.S. official declared. "Keeping Israel's unity government together is critical to that process."

Meanwhile, Shamir derided the idea that he had buckled to his party's right wing.

"What is new in this?" he shrugged. "We've said all these things before."

The U.S. ambassador to Israel was told by Shamir, "Israel's peace initiative stands as adopted by the Israeli government, and there was no change in it whatsoever."

Earlier, Shamir had admitted that the proposed elections "have more importance from a public relations point of view than in a practical sense."

That has been the Israeli government's view of the plan from the outset. But Washington has another angle — the possibility that the plan could be used to maneuver Palestinian leaders or to try to convince them to end the uprising without achieving its goals.

Both the Bush administration and the Democratic majority in Congress have been supporting this effort to foist the Israeli election plan on the Palestinian people.

While Washington shares Tel Aviv's goal of crushing the Palestinian uprising, a tactical difference has developed between them. The U.S. government is no longer persuaded that the "iron fist" alone can end the uprising.

Turnaround

That realization was signaled last December when Washington abruptly reversed its stand of many years and announced it would begin negotiations with the PLO.

Talks with the PLO began after a special United Nations session was held in Geneva where Arafat spoke. The Reagan administration had earlier barred him from coming to New York to address the UN General Assembly there.

The decision to negotiate with the PLO was assailed by Shamir, but it did not represent a change in Washington's basic position. Washington remains a foe of Palestinian liberation.

That's why U.S. military and economic aid has continued to pour into Israel — more aid than received by any other country in the world.

For the U.S. government, and the bankers

and oil barons whose Mideast interests it represents, the Israeli capitalist rulers are an invaluable front-line ally in the drive to keep the Palestinian liberation movement in check, as well as a battering ram against struggles of the Arab people of the region.

But Washington also recognizes that the Israeli efforts to stamp out the uprising have increasingly isolated and discredited it throughout the world.

The Palestinian uprising, the *intifada*, is now in its 20th month. There are more than 14,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons and concentration camps. The July 10 issue of the Jerusalem Palestinian paper *al-Fajr* reported that the number of Palestinians killed since the *intifada* began is 594.

Arafat interview

In a July 9 interview with the *New York Times* in Tunis, Arafat pinned much of the responsibility on Washington for the recent Israeli moves in relation to the vote plan.

In that interview, the *Times* said, Arafat also indicated that the PLO might break off the discussion with the United States because the talks, now in their eighth month, were going nowhere.



Bill Rayson

Youth in Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. Elections plan is seen as maneuver to end Palestinian uprising.

According to the *Times* report, "Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian leaders interviewed here over the last two days described the PLO's dialogue with the United States so far as a ceremonial exercise that had accomplished little."

Arafat reportedly declared that the meetings "will continue only dependent on the United States president's action."

"Does Mr. Bush really want peace?" the PLO leader asked. "And will he carry out the commitments made to us in Geneva?"

Court affirms right to keep film from FBI

BY ARIS HARAS

MINNEAPOLIS — Indian leader Vernon Bellecourt won a victory here recently when a federal judge forbid the FBI from using photos he took at a conference in Panama in March.

Chief U.S. District Court Judge Donald Alsop mandated that the photos, taken at the founding Congress of Indian Organizations in Panama City, be sealed and placed in an evidence vault pending the outcome of a civil rights suit Bellecourt has filed against the government agency.

Store employees at the F-Stop One Hour

Photo in uptown Minneapolis stated in affidavits that they let the FBI agents have the film, thinking they had no choice. The store owner notified Bellecourt immediately after the incident took place. The FBI had no search warrant.

Bellecourt, a leader of the American Indian Movement, and his wife, Janice Denny, were invited guests representing AIM at the Panama meeting. Hosted by the Kuna Indian Nation of Panama, the conference was attended by prominent indigenous leaders from countries throughout Central America.

Bellecourt said he is "very much con-

cerned for the safety of the participants and Indian leaders shown in the photos."

"The FBI and CIA," he continued, "may circulate these photos among various regimes in Central America, making these leaders targets of death squads."

At a June 8 press conference C. Peter Erlinder, Bellecourt's lawyer, described the slander campaign the FBI has waged against the Indian rights leader since his 1988 trip to Libya.

Among the rumors FBI agents have initiated against Bellecourt are charges of having Swiss bank accounts funded by Libya and stockpiles of arms for terrorist attacks.

"It's all totally ridiculous," said Bellecourt of the allegations. The lies and slanders against him by the FBI and the illegal seizure of the photographs are "obviously a campaign to chill my First Amendment rights of free speech and association," Bellecourt concluded.

Following the judge's June 13 ruling Erlinder explained that the court order protects the privacy of all citizens.

"If the government had won," he said, "it would have meant the FBI can walk into photo stores and inspect people's personal photographs."

California Peace & Freedom candidate fights ballot charges

"Vital issues of civil liberties and democratic rights are at stake in this case," reads a July 10 letter from the Gene Pepi Defense Committee.

Pepi was the 1988 Peace and Freedom Party candidate for California State Assembly in District 19, near San Francisco. On January 18 he was arraigned on charges of perjury and violations of the State Election Code.

The Peace and Freedom candidate was charged in San Mateo County — where he ran for office — with six felonies, stemming from an allegation that he did not live where he was registered to vote.

In late June Pepi was informed that charges were also being brought against him in Alameda County on technical violations of the State Election Code related to assisting another Peace and Freedom Party candidate file nominating papers.

Following these new charges, Pepi accepted a plea bargain in San Mateo County. Five of the six charges were dropped. "Although we firmly maintain that he is innocent of this charge as well," says the defense committee letter, Pepi pleaded "no contest" to the sixth charge.

The legal expenses of the case, and the limited resources of Pepi and his supporters necessitated this decision, the committee states.

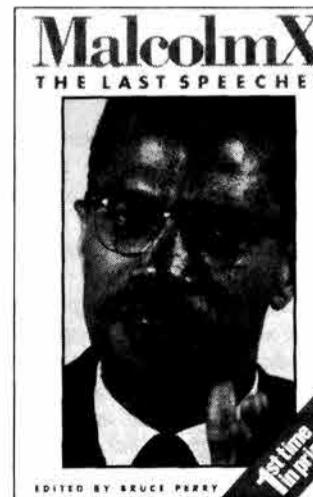
"The implications of the case against Pepi go far beyond the boundaries of San Mateo County, and indeed far beyond the confines of the Peace and Freedom Party," explains the defense committee in a flyer on the case.

"What is being challenged is the right of independent, socialist, and working-class candidates to run in the elections at all," the

flyer points out. "Gene Pepi deserves the support of every socialist, every supporter of civil liberties, and every working-class activist in the United States."

For more information contact the Gene Pepi Defense Committee, Suite 223, 3309 1/2 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

New from Pathfinder



Malcolm X: The Last Speeches

Six never-before-published speeches and interviews. Included are Malcolm X's final two speeches in print given in the week prior to his February 1965 assassination, two December 1964 interviews, and two 1963 speeches.

These newly available works shed light on Malcolm X's political evolution during the last months of his life and reaffirm his place among the outstanding revolutionary leaders of the 20th century.

\$8.95. Available in June at Pathfinder bookstores listed on page 12, or by mail from Pathfinder, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. (Please include \$1 for shipping

Alabama: coalfield walkouts end, support for Pittston strike firm

BY JOHN HAWKINS

BIRMINGHAM — After striking for more than a month in support of fellow union members, miners in Alabama, along with thousands in other states, returned to work the week of July 17.

Many are keeping a watchful eye on the continuing struggle by strikers at Pittston Coal Group to win a contract and remain confident and ready to take action if called on.

In mid-June Alabama miners joined more than 44,000 members of the United Mine Workers of America and walked off the job, backing Pittston and New Beckley strikers in Virginia and West Virginia.

On July 7 UMWA President Richard Trumka called a holiday through July 14 for miners still out.

The following week, Pittston Coal Group President Michael Odom agreed to meet with the union and a federal judge in Virginia. Trumka then called on miners to return to work.

Most coal miners in District 17, in West Virginia, did not return to work the week they were called back. Large numbers in neighboring District 29 also stayed out, as did 500

mines in Kentucky.

It was announced on July 18 that negotiations would resume between the union and Pittston coal. Pittston had refused all pleas to return to the table, including from West Virginia Gov. Gaston Caperton, since talks broke off last month.

At a UMWA International Executive Board meeting slated for July 26 future action by the union will be discussed based on progress made with Pittston.

In Alabama, having been back at work for one shift, miners responded quickly to a company attempt at victimization and scored a victory for the union on July 18.

Some 4,300 UMWA members, out of a total 5,000 in the district, stayed off the job, effectively shutting down the largest coal operators in the state.

John Stewart, president of the UMWA local at Jim Walter No. 3 mine, explained to the *Birmingham News* that the company had picked out some workers at all of its operations and fired them.

"We're saying that an injury to one is an injury to all," Stewart said. "If they try to pick on one, they might as well close down all the mines in Alabama. All they've got to

do is put them back to work, and we'll go back to work."

Although mine company spokesmen insisted the discharges were for absenteeism and within the bounds of the contract, they were forced to rescind the firings, clearing the way for UMWA members to go back to work.

Many miners view their return to work as temporary pending results of negotiations with Pittston and are willing to honor the picket lines again.

Among miners in Alabama the determination to help win a victory for the union at Pittston runs deep. This is grounded in a widening knowledge of the stakes involved in this fight for the entire union.

Hundreds of miners from here have traveled to Virginia and learned more about the strike firsthand.

Beginning with eight busloads of UMWA members attending the June 21 solidarity demonstration in Richmond, Virginia, a constant stream of cars has gone from locals throughout Alabama.

Recounting their experiences to their union brothers and sisters upon returning has helped strengthen the resolve of District 20 members.

Along with unionists from around the country, several miners from Alabama were arrested in Virginia, including District 20 President Mike Gossett, who spent a night in jail for allegedly "impeding traffic."

Some 300 miners and family members turned out to greet Gossett at the Birmingham airport on July 14.

Aside from traveling to Virginia, UMWA miners have brought Pittston miners to Alabama. Strikers James Gibbs and Roy McMillian have spoken to thousands of miners at local meetings across the state.

Throughout the weeks of the walkouts, miners mobilized at virtually every nonunion mine in north-central Alabama, encouraging workers to join the union and support the sympathy strikes.

Local and state officials have responded to these peaceful protests by increasing the number of police, at times in full riot gear, posted at the entrances to nonunion mines or escorting convoys of nonunion coal trucks.

The courts have been quick to hand down injunctions against the pickets, and National Labor Relations Board officials here have filed suit against the union on behalf of 10 Alabama coal companies.

"If they can get away with this here," said one miner, "imagine what they're doing at Pittston in Virginia."



Militant/Mary Imo
Worker in West Virginia backs strikes.
During walkouts miners won support throughout coalfields.

During the strike, solidarity has developed between UMWA miners and striking Eastern Airlines workers. On several occasions miners turned out at flight attendant hiring sessions at area hotels, helping to convince prospective applicants not to seek jobs with Eastern.

A rally in support of striking Machinists, pilots, and flight attendants has been called for July 30 by Jobs with Justice. Miners and members of the UMWA Women's Support Group are helping to build the action.

New support groups have sprung up during this struggle, and participants have reached many unions with news about the Pittston strike, its significance, and why it deserves support.

According to Alyson Kennedy, a member of UMWA 2368 and an organizer of the local's outreach work, miners and members of the Women's Support Group have spoken at meetings of the Tuscaloosa County Central Labor Council, United Rubber Workers, United Steelworkers, and others. More meetings are set up for the next few weeks.

UMWA members plan to continue educating on their struggle and build the July 30 rally at the same time.

John Hawkins is a member of UMWA Local 2368 at Jim Walters Resources No. 5 in Brookwood, Alabama.

150,000 Soviet coal miners strike in Siberia, Ukraine



BY RONI McCANN

Some 150,000 Soviet coal miners on strike throughout western Siberia were joined by thousands of miners in the Ukraine, the Soviet Union's largest coal region, on July 17.

Mines in more than 70 coalfields in the Ukraine's Donets Basin are shut down as well as most mines in the Kuznetsk Basin in Siberia.

The strike, the first in the region's history, began when miners in the Siberian town of Mezdurechensk refused to go down into the pits, demanding the government act on their grievances.

The miners protested food shortages and insufficient pay and vacation time. They wanted better medical care, housing, and the right to set production levels and improve working conditions on the job.

Other demands included an end to greater economic benefits awarded to Communist Party officials, a revised constitution allowing for more individual freedoms, repair of environmentally damaged mining areas, and a law strengthening the right of unions to strike.

After Coal Ministry officials granted a few concessions to the miners in Mezdurechensk, they agreed to go back to work. A strike committee was elected with the authority to call another strike if the government doesn't keep its promises.

"It looks like within these two days more attention was paid to Mezdurechensk's problems than within the last two decades," reported Soviet newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya*.

After this initial success, spontaneous strikes started popping up throughout the Kuznetsk Basin in western Siberia. Some 2,000 Ukrainian miners added their numbers

days later.

The walkouts have the support of the Soviet Council of Trade Unions, which donated office space to a regionwide strike committee formed by miners in the cities of Novokuznetsk and Prokopyevsk.

"When we saw the strike in Mezdurechensk, we knew that was the right thing to do," said Vladimir Makhanov, chairman of the strike committee, to the *Washington Post*.

"In our town there are 12 mines with 3,500 workers in each, and we made these decisions as a collective. We kept one mine open so that schools and hospitals would at least have enough fuel."

On July 17 a high-level government delegation met with miners in the Kuznetsk Basin. Officials appealed directly to the strikers to end their walkouts.

According to the *New York Times*, Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov said that President Mikhail Gorbachev was personally appealing for an end to the stoppage and promising to deal with the workers' grievances. Ryzhkov said the government would set up a special commission and carefully study "the whole range of problems" in the mines.

Admitting that numerous social problems had accumulated over the years, Ryzhkov blamed the "inertia of local authorities" for the miners' grievances, not the central government.

In a July 19 speech Gorbachev described the strikes as a crisis, saying, "the situation is fraught with dangerous political and economic consequences."

Several sympathy strikes have been reported in factories in Siberia, the Urals, and the Ukraine.

BY MAGGIE McCRAW

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — "We have made a commitment to get our union back," said striking New Beckley miner Richard Daniels.

That's what miners have been trying to do in Glen Daniel, West Virginia, since they struck New Beckley Mining in January.

The United Mine Workers of America called a selective strike against the coal company after workers there stayed on the job four months without a contract.

The strikers got a big boost when thousands of coal miners across the country walked off the job in June, standing behind striking UMWA members at New Beckley and Pittston Coal Group in Virginia and West Virginia. Solidarity rallies backing the two strikes have been taking place throughout the Appalachian coalfields.

In June New Beckley miners staked out a spot about a mile from the mine entrance and set up "Camp Solidarity-Local 1895." Miners, their families, friends, and supporters gather there to keep up morale, sharing meals and information.

New Beckley Mining bought the bankrupt Beckley Mining Co. last year for \$100. The new owners promised to hire miners from the UMWA seniority list if the union agreed

to give up back pay owed to the workers. Under court supervision the deal went through, and 130 miners went back to work out of 300.

After negotiations fell through the miners went on strike January 23. Within a short time the company started hiring scabs, and production got going.

On July 11 New Beckley strikers and supporters numbering 300 shut down the mine for one day. The company then asked the scabs if they wanted to keep working. They voted not to. State troopers escorted the scabs out of the mine, and New Beckley Mining announced it was closing indefinitely.

Joe Carter, the local's president, told the crowd, "This is a major victory for Local 1895 and the entire UMWA. If we can do this here, we can do it anywhere."

The next day the coal company began airlifting scabs into the plant with helicopters. Management-loaded coal trucks were ready to run, and a federal judge handed down a temporary restraining order prohibiting violence and threats against New Beckley property and employees. Through these methods the company is now mining coal again.

A hearing is scheduled on the restraining order for July 27. A picnic at the mine union hall in Beckley will be held July 22 to honor pensioners and support the strike.

Unions call actions to answer Aug. 1 new flights

The International Association of Machinists (IAM) struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the unions and impose massive concessions on workers.

Backed by the 5,700 flight attendants and 3,200 pilots at East-

SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS !

ern, the strike by 8,300 Machinists has crippled the airline's operations since then. It has also won broad support from working people in the United States and Canada. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

In response to Eastern's projected start-up of more flights August 1, the Industrial Union Council of New Jersey — the state's umbrella labor organization — has called for a regional labor demonstration August 4 to back the Eastern strikers.

The event will be held at the Sheraton Hotel near Newark International Airport, starting at 4:30 p.m.

The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, together with Machinists Local 1932, is organizing a "solidarity picket" at Terminal 6 of Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on July 29 from 9:00 to 11:00

a.m. This show of force on the side of the strikers will kick off a series of such biweekly picket lines by unionists at LAX.

The Metropolitan Detroit AFL-CIO and IAM Local 141 have called an August 1 rally at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. On that day, Eastern plans to begin three flights to Detroit for the first time since the strike began.

The unionists are also organizing mass picketing for the same day, from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., so that each of the flights is met by a large, visible picket line.

On July 11 more than 75 strikers and supporters from other unions picketed a scab hiring session for mechanics organized by Eastern at the Detroit airport. For the first time in months, every terminal entrance was covered by pickets.

The overwhelming majority of job applicants was turned away, and a couple of people even joined the picket," reports Local 141 strike activist Mark Friedman. Picketers distributed leaflets explaining the issues in the strike and describing the conditions at Eastern. They encouraged would-be applicants not to be scabs, and to seek jobs at other airlines that are hiring.

Wayne County cops and airport security guards tried unsuccessfully to stop distribution of the strikers' leaflets and prevent strikers from talking to those who came to apply. They threatened to arrest strike coordinator Tom Barker.

"Eastern management went berserk trying to corral their scabs together and interview them. They

even closed off an entire airport concourse," Friedman adds. Of the 100 or so people who came, "they were lucky to have gotten two dozen applications — and only one person had the necessary licenses to work on aircraft."

On June 29, in just two hours, a group of Eastern strikers and supporters collected \$1,352 at two employee parking lots at Dulles International Airport, near Washington, D.C.

Gail Skidmore, coordinator of IAM Local 1759's Eastern strike support committee, reports that IAM members handed out a leaflet the day before the collection to let other airport workers know they would be in the parking lots to collect donations for the strikers' food banks. The leaflet also suggested other ways workers could get involved in the strike. Local 1759 organizes workers at United, Northwest, and Trans World Airlines at Dulles and National, another Washington-area airport.

The next day, five Machinists' union members and three flight attendants from Eastern were joined by three Local 1759 members at the parking lot, armed with stickers and leaflets. "The first few dollars were slow in coming," said Dean, one of the Eastern IAM members, "and then all of a sudden there was more money than I'd seen in ages."

Many workers already had their money out when they approached the bus stops where they get off and on buses that go from the parking lots to the airport. "As we got near the bus stop, it was automatic," said

Dan, a United ramp worker. "People got their money ready. They waited patiently in single file as they got off the bus. Each one dropped in their donation and waited for their sticker and leaflet."

Debbie, an Eastern flight attendant, said later that she had "dreaded the thought of asking for money," but was "overwhelmed by the support and friendliness and willingness to help."

Underground limestone miners in Weeping Water, Nebraska, gave a striking Eastern pilot and flight attendant an enthusiastic reception at their union meeting July 5. The miners are in the Cement and Mason Workers' union.

Miners signed pledges not to fly Eastern or Continental, took "Stop Lorenzo" stickers for their hard hats, and discussed helping picket at the Omaha airport.

One miner told the meeting about an ad for an Eastern flight attendant hiring session, set for the next day at the Omaha Marriott Hotel. Area unionists and three strikers turned up to picket the event, the second such session held in Omaha.

Rail workers gave a warm welcome to a team of Eastern strikers at New Jersey Transit's Hoboken station July 7.

IAM Local 1445 secretary-treasurer Frank DeMaria led the delegation, which included another IAM member, a pilot, and a flight attendant, all from Newark Airport. They explained the issues in the strike at Eastern to rail workers throughout

the terminal. These one-on-one discussions lasted for two hours. Their swing through Hoboken terminal ended at a meeting of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

A total of \$257 was donated to the strike fund, earmarked for Eastern flight attendants. Rail workers at the Hoboken station have recently bought some 100 "Stop Lorenzo" buttons and bumper stickers.

In Atlanta, five striking Eastern flight attendants collected \$650 from rail workers at Norfolk Southern on June 29 and 30.

United Transportation Union Local 1245 invited the strikers to take the collection. Workers entering and leaving the main gate at Inman Yard made donations, large and small. Crew haulers urged crews going to, or coming from, the motel where they stay to have their money out.

Although railroad police frequently stopped in the middle of the driveway to complain about the strikers blocking traffic, the collection went on unimpeded.

Dozens of workers urged the strikers to "hang tough". They said they were happy to help because "it could be us."

Liz Ziers from Atlanta, Jane Harris from Newark, George Chalmers from Omaha, and Geoff Mirelowitz from Los Angeles contributed to this column.

Eastern scab ramp worker killed at Atlanta airport

BY LIZ ZIERS

ATLANTA — A scab ramp service worker at Eastern Airlines was killed early July 8 when an electric tug she was riding turned over. Carol Turner, 41, was crushed by the vehicle. The tug's driver, Joel Walters, 32, was taken to the hospital with head and foot injuries. Neither the hospital nor Eastern would give any information to the media about the accident.

The workers were apparently employed by Ogden Allied Aviation Services, a company subcontracted by Eastern to perform ramp services. That's who Turner's husband was referred to by Eastern when he tried to find out what happened, strikers report. Workers at Ogden make \$5.50 an hour with no benefits.

Even though the tugs have a top speed of 15 miles per hour, they're dangerously unstable, explained striking Eastern ramp worker Erick Frieson. The tugs are used to pull baggage carts.

'Like a bomb waiting to go off'

"All the weight is in the back, where the batteries are," Frieson said. "There is so much moving equipment in there and so many hazardous chemicals to work with. When you have untrained people, it's like a bomb waiting to go off."

"When I started nine years ago," said striker Harry Murphy, "we had two weeks of classroom training before we even started working with the equipment. Now Eastern trains these people in 10 or 15 minutes and turns them loose. One day they're going to put chemicals in the wrong bin, and they're going to have a mess out there."

Ramp service workers load explosives, battery acid, and other hazardous chemicals onto planes. There is more to the job "than throwing a suitcase on a plane," added Murphy.

From the scant information in the local paper, strikers could almost pinpoint where the tug had turned over — a sharp turn at the bottom of a steep grade in a tunnel under a runway. "You have to know in advance what's coming, and you have to be trained to handle it," said Frieson.

Ask for investigation

International Association of Machinists Local 1690 has asked the airport commis-

sioner to investigate the accident. Before the strike started, the union had demanded a vehicle safer than the electric tug for long hauls through the airport.

"I feel bad," said striker Murphy. "I don't knock anybody wanting to put food on the

table, and I understand she had children. But who's responsible for her death? Eastern."

"You see what they think about human life," said Frieson.

"She was just another number to them,"

added another striker, R.J. "They'll go out and get another number to replace her."

Corporations are trying to get "lean and trim," said Stanley. "What they really want to do is bust our unions, and without unions, you have no recourse."

New Zealand farm activist on tour of U.S.

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Denis Hiestand, a farm leader and activist from New Zealand, will be touring the Midwest at the end of July and beginning of August. The tour also includes a stop in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hiestand is a dairy farmer on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island where the worst drought in 102 years has brought devastation to working farmers. His firsthand experience with the drought and how it aggravates worsening social and economic conditions of working farmers will be of great interest to farmers in the United States. Many

U.S. farmers are encountering similar difficulties.

The main goal of Hiestand's tour is to meet U.S. farmers and farm activists and learn about the crisis they face here.

A leader of a local branch of the Rural Bank Mortgages Association, Hiestand hopes to forge international links among working farmers. The association, set up this year, involves working farmers whose mortgages are held by New Zealand's government-owned Rural Bank.

Hiestand has been a farm activist since the 1970s. An interview with him appeared in the March 31, 1989, issue of the *Militant*.

In August Hiestand will attend the International Active Workers and Socialist Educational Conference in Oberlin, Ohio, where he will participate in a farm panel.

The tour itinerary includes Des Moines, Iowa, July 19-22; Omaha, Nebraska, July 23-25; Minneapolis July 27-30; St. Louis August 1-3; Birmingham, Alabama, August 12-13; and Cleveland August 14.

Atlanta forum hears Eastern striker

BY MACEO DIXON

ATLANTA — "We want the right to get up in the morning, go to our jobs, and earn a decent wage," striking Eastern Airlines worker Mike Drake told the audience at a July 8 Militant Labor Forum. Drake is chief shop steward of International Association of Machinists Local 1690 at Hartsfield International Airport here.

For two and a half years before the strike, Drake explained, Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo brutalized the Machinists' union members, flight attendants, pilots, and noncontract workers at Eastern. He cited Eastern's treatment of an Atlanta-based flight attendant after she was raped. When the flight attendant — who is Black — called her supervisor to explain why she wasn't reporting to work, management wouldn't believe she had been raped until they spoke with a white police officer.

Lorenzo's attitude toward women was summed up by his comment to flight attendants that they were only at Eastern to "look for a rich husband," Drake added.

Striking United Mine Workers member

Allyson Kennedy also spoke at the forum. She described the wave of walkouts by union coal miners in 11 states to back UMWAs strikes at Pittston and New Beckley coal companies in Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Kennedy works at the Jim Walters mine in Brookwood, Alabama.

On July 7, she reported, more than 500 Brookwood miners came to a union meeting to hear two miners on strike at Pittston Coal.

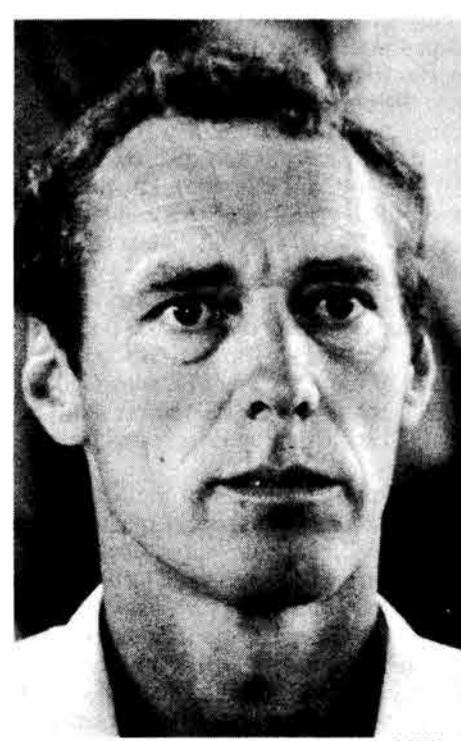
Chris Remple from the Socialist Workers Party also spoke.

A lively discussion followed the presentations, centering on how to expand solidarity for the Eastern strike in other unions.

More than 30 people attended the forum, including four Machinists' union members and two pilots on strike at Eastern.

Labor news in the *Militant*

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Militant

Historic crisis grips Argentina

New president calls on working people to tighten belts

BY DON ROJAS

In what was once dubbed the land of beef and wheat, millions in Argentina today can hardly afford to eat bread, much less meat. At one time even many workers considered succulent sirloins and filet mignons to be their birthright.

Empty middle-class restaurants and the recent revolt in working-class neighborhoods over high food prices are among the many vivid manifestations that attest to the startling reversal of fortune in this country.

Bankrupt Argentina is today struggling through the worst all-around crisis in its history — a crisis that is leading to a rapid decline in the standard of living of working people.

The facts and figures are astounding: 12,000 percent annual inflation, a \$60 billion foreign debt, devaluation of the national currency by more than 12,000 percent in five years, 2.5 million unemployed or underemployed and another 7.5 million persons living in dire poverty. This in a country with a population of 32 million.

Successive Argentinian governments, both civilian and military, have attempted to manage the crisis and dampen the accompanying class struggle with a variety of free market economic policies, but all have failed. Eventually, they all fell victim to the political crisis of Argentinian capitalism.

The most recent victim is the regime of Raúl Alfonsín, which was defeated in the May presidential elections by Carlos Menem and his Peronist party.

Menem, 59, who campaigned on a populist platform of "neo-Peronism," with promises of a "productive revolution" and "big wage

packets" for workers, was sworn in as president on July 8, five months before schedule.

Bowing to public pressure, outgoing President Alfonsín agreed to relinquish office before the constitutionally prescribed date and pass over to his successor the task of managing Argentina's terminally ill capitalist economy.

Without delay, Menem announced his cure for the sick economy: a package of measures demanding that the working people tighten

Annual inflation rate is 12,000 percent; 7.5 million people live in poverty.

their belts. The conservative *Economist* magazine, published in Britain, gloated that this was like "surgery without anaesthetic."

"Argentina is broke, and in this historic hour its reconstruction begins," the new president had said in his inaugural speech. But there were no echoes of his lavish campaign promises, only offers of "sacrifice, work, and hope."

With the immediate objectives of curbing inflation and resuming tax collection, Menem called for a 90-day price freeze, devaluation of the currency's official price from 300 to 650 austral per dollar, and steep increases in the costs of utility services, transportation, and gasoline.

To cushion the harsh impact of these latter measures, the government ordered that all

workers be given a one-time bonus the equivalent of from \$14 to \$20.

Also announced was an end to tax write-offs to industries operating in remote areas and new taxes on bonds and other investments.

Tackling the country's burdensome foreign debt, as well as implementing the promised program of privatization of state companies, was deferred to a later date. This means Argentina will wait for a while before new credits from the foreign banks and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) begin to flow.

The country has been cut off from new credit since February and has not paid interest on its debt since April 1988. Menem, however, has pledged to pay the debt as a matter of national honor and has signaled to the banks and the IMF that negotiations with them would be reasonable and non-confrontational.

Still, the unrelenting capital flight coupled with fears of renewed social unrest in reaction to this new anti-working-class package continue to place Argentina in the category of "risk countries" to be avoided by foreign investors.

Under Menem's administration both the military and organized labor, two of Argentina's most powerful institutions, are faced with dilemmas.

On the one hand, he has replaced the heads of the army, navy, and air force with his own men, and on the other he has agreed to grant an amnesty to the officers accused or convicted of various crimes against the civilian population.

While not totally satisfied with a civilian government, the military's leadership is



Marchers in Argentina demand a moratorium on debt payments.

aware of the political difficulties it would face if it were to seize power again. The Argentine people remember all too well its crimes and its dismal record of economic mismanagement.

Besides, Argentina's capitalist rulers now seek to project a new "democratic" image toward the continent. To approve of a military takeover at this time would not only damage this carefully cultivated image but would alienate Washington, which endorses this new approach.

Menem's new labor minister, Jorge Triaca, a former head of the central labor confederation, has called on Argentina's labor movement to observe a two-year moratorium on strikes.

Furthermore, Menem has surrounded himself with probusiness economic advisers and technocrats who were instrumental in drafting the tough antilabor program. He has even gone so far as appointing the country's wealthiest industrialist, Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat, an old foe of labor, as a "roving ambassador for Peronism," as described by the *New York Times*.

Caribbean summit discusses mounting crisis

BY DON ROJAS

Rising unemployment. Increased malnutrition. Escalating levels of illiteracy, crime, and drug trafficking. Persistently low economic growth rates. Expanding foreign debt.

Warned by their "experts" and advisors that these symptoms of a devastating social and economic crisis require urgent collective attention, the heads of government of the 13-member countries of CARICOM (the Caribbean Community) recently concluded their 10th annual summit meeting with an agreement to try to forge a single regional market economy by the early 1990s.

In the past, these get-togethers, marked by much pomp and ceremony, have been little

for the islands when Western Europe forms its single market economy by Jan. 1, 1992; and the recent free trade agreement between the United States and Canada, which negatively affects CARICOM's trade with those two huge capitalist markets.

Outlining plans for next year's economic conference, which he claims will involve representatives from nongovernmental organizations, at least in its preparation, Trinidad's Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson spoke of "a sense of urgency and a sense of challenge."

Michael Manley of Jamaica, one of the founders of CARICOM and attending his first summit in eight years, stated, "I don't think that we have that much time to talk, and we certainly do not have any time to doubt."

The Grenada summit seemed to produce common recognition among the governmental heads that either the CARICOM members swim together or sink together in the rapidly shifting tides of the global capitalist market.

President Desmond Hoyte of Guyana was grave in his assessment. "For small countries like ours the lesson is clear: we either integrate or perish," he said.

And conference chairperson Herbert Blaize of Grenada opined that the region had no choice but to strengthen cooperation for survival.

While all agreed on harmonizing the economic interests of the region's capitalist rulers in light of the growing crisis, the question of Caribbean political union was not addressed.

This is still a sensitive issue with the various ruling parties, all of whom are reluctant to subsume their individual privileges and limited sovereignties to a central regional leadership. It remains, however, a popular demand of the region's peoples.

The summit declared that by 1991 remaining customs barriers within the area will come down and all outstanding commitments of the original CARICOM treaty, signed 16 years ago in Trinidad, will be carried out.

Passport and work permit requirements will be abolished for CARICOM citizens traveling to other CARICOM countries by the end of 1990, and by 1993 the region's three existing stock exchanges will be integrated into a single capital market, as recommended by Jamaica's Manley.

Roderick Rainford, secretary-general of CARICOM's secretariat in Guyana, was buoyant about the summit's results, claiming

"a major step forward" had been made.

For the first time, he asserted, the CARICOM heads of government have set their sights on certain goals for a common market economy by "a certain target date."

He added that CARICOM was "one of the more vibrant of the various integration schemes in existence among developing countries" and that an increasing number of its regional neighbors (Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Suriname among them) were seeking some form of closer formal association.

Furthermore, Menem has surrounded himself with probusiness economic advisers and technocrats who were instrumental in drafting the tough antilabor program. He has even gone so far as appointing the country's wealthiest industrialist, Amalia Lacroze de Fortabat, an old foe of labor, as a "roving ambassador for Peronism," as described by the *New York Times*.

August 12 demonstration to demand independence for Puerto Rico

BY MIKE SHUR

NEW YORK — A meeting of more than 80 supporters of Puerto Rican independence here has called for a mass protest march on August 12. The action, which will demand independence for Puerto Rico, will assemble at 14th Street and Avenue C in New York's Lower East Side and march to the United Nations.

The gathering was attended by pro-independence forces from New York; Boston; Hartford, Connecticut; Philadelphia; Albany, New York; Chicago; Los Angeles; Miami; and Puerto Rico. It was hosted by Casa de las Américas and sponsored by the Free Puerto Rico Committee, Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP), Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement (MLN), and other organizations.

The conference opened with a video of a pro-independence march of 80,000 people in San Juan on June 17. This film also contained footage of the testimony of Carlos Gallisá, general secretary of the PSP, before the U.S. Senate Commission on Energy and Natural Resources.

Julio Rosario, a leader of the MLN and convener of the conference, explained that the Senate Commission was in Puerto Rico to hold hearings on a proposed plebiscite on Puerto Rico's status. The plebiscite was proposed by the George Bush administration and is planned for early 1991. The Senate is currently discussing the rules that will govern how the plebiscite is worded and organized.

"The referendum is designed to tie Puerto Rico even more to the United States as a

colony at a time when unemployment and conditions on the island are worsening," Rosario said.

Gallisá said the unity of the proindependence groups in Puerto Rico contributed to the success of the June march. He pointed to the importance of having a similar action in the United States. "It is important to put pressure on the U.S. Senate and the Bush administration," he said. "This pressure must come not only from Puerto Rico, but also from within the United States. The protest will strengthen support for us with our friends at the United Nations."

The August march will come several days before the UN Commission on Decolonization holds hearings on the status of Puerto Rico. The U.S. government is attempting to table the hearings until after the proposed plebiscite.

Participants in the July 1 meeting described the initial building activities for the protest in their cities. Regional meetings were called for to expand the forces involved in supporting the march. The New York committee announced the formation of a labor task force to build support for the action among unions.

The conference concluded with a rally in the evening. Gallisá and Rosario were joined on the platform by Naftali García, from the editorial board of the proindependence and socialist magazine *Pensamiento Crítico*; Carlos Gueromendos of the MLN; Mildred Colón, coordinator of the Brooklyn PSP; and representatives of Casa de las Américas and the Committee Against Repression.

Failure of Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative.

more than talk shops, which at the end of a few days issue hollow communiqués of marginal significance to the Caribbean people.

Perceiving CARICOM as an exclusive club of neocolonial capitalist politicians, in which working people and nongovernmental organizations are excluded from participating, the Caribbean people have been generally unenthused by the outcome of these summits.

This year, however, the politicians meeting in Grenada July 3-7 broke out of their traditional complacency and decided to try to use CARICOM as a buffer against the deepening social and economic crisis facing the semicolonial countries of the English-speaking Caribbean.

In the context of warnings by advisors such as Alister McIntyre, vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies, and economist Compton Bourne that the Caribbean "appears to be more vulnerable now than it was in the early 1960s," the CARICOM leaders accepted a proposal by the Trinidad and Tobago government for a Caribbean economic conference next year to discuss the future of the region as it approaches the 21st century.

Major economic conference in 1990

Propelling the decision for such an unprecedented gathering is the failure of Washington's Caribbean Basin Initiative, imperialism's scheme for regional economic development; the loss of preferential markets

Nicaragua peasants keep heads above water

Get some relief from interest rate reduction, canceled debts

BY SETH GALINSKY

JINOTEGA, Nicaragua — "If the government had not lowered interest rates and forgiven part of our debt in April, we would not have taken out any loans for our crops this year," Ricardo Rizo explained. The peasants in the Dionisio Gutiérrez Credit and Service Cooperative, he said, would have planted beans, corn, and vegetables without fertilizers, pesticides, or quality seeds. Rizo, a member of the cooperative, owns four acres of land.

Up until a year ago, Rizo said, interest rates and government-subsidized prices of agricultural supplies were so low that loans could be paid off by selling just a few hundred pounds of beans and corn. The rest was profit.

But in June 1988, the government pegged interest rates to inflation and ended subsidies for imported goods needed for agriculture. While inflation some months was more than 60 percent, the prices farmers received for basic grains — rice, beans, and corn — did not rise as much. Many peasants were unable to pay off their debt, making them ineligible for further loans. Others, like the peasants at the Dionisio Gutiérrez co-op, were going to forego loans this year even if they managed to pay their back debt. Instead, they would have planted "traditionally," which would have meant considerably lower yields.

In April the government lowered interest rates to 12 percent on loans for growing basic grains, where small peasant production is the norm, and 15 percent for the rest of agriculture. The government also agreed to forgive 50 percent of the debt from the previous harvest in basic grains, perishables, and sesame and to reschedule the remainder after a one-year moratorium at a monthly interest rate of a maximum of 5 percent.

Lower interest to 'avoid recession'

The lower interest rates and debt cancellations, along with other measures that benefited both working peasants and big capitalist farmers, were approved "to avoid a recession" in agricultural production, Jaime Wheelock, minister of agrarian reform, told the Sandinista daily *Barricada*.

The government also announced plans to buy basic grains in massive amounts and at a high enough price to cover the costs of production. But the crop won't be in for several months and Rizo, like many other peasants, says, "We'll see what the government actually offers."

Many farmers already had their new loans approved in early May but had not received any disbursements when the national currency, the córdoba, was devalued over 100 percent. Prices on many necessary imported items, such as fertilizer and pesticides, more than doubled. But the bank has not yet increased the amount of the loans.

These and other problems facing small and medium peasants were discussed at a June meeting of the Municipal Council of the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG) in Jinotega. The council represents thousands of peasants in 80 cooperatives and a handful of collective farms, along with individual farmers.

'Difficult to survive'

Even with the reduction in interest rates, the situation for peasants is still difficult, Adrián Medina Herrera, a member of the Leonel Talavera Martínez Cooperative, told the council's basic grains commission. "Some cooperatives do not have enough funds to survive," he said. And the situation

is harder this year, he added, because of late rains.

Some of the cooperatives in this area grow both basic grains and coffee. During harvest time they hire dozens of workers to pick the coffee before it becomes overripe. "The beans and corn we grow are really just for our own consumption," one participant said. "Basic grains are not profitable in this region. It's the coffee income that allows us to pay off our debt for the other crops."

But not all the peasants are lucky enough to have an acre or two of coffee.

Bravio Cruz Flores, one of six members of a cooperative northeast of Matagalpa, explained that he paid last year's loan for basic grains by selling some of his farm animals. His family also works picking coffee for other landowners "to buy clothes for the children," he said. But even with the extra income, "sometimes there is not enough to eat."

Antonio Zamora, director of the Farm Development Center, a division of the Ministry

of Agrarian Development and Reform, told the UNAG council meeting the government hopes to increase income to peasants by exporting 150 million pounds of beans, corn, and rice to El Salvador and Guatemala during this agricultural cycle.

Peasants complain about middlemen

Some farmers at the June meeting complained that they don't have vehicles and are forced to sell their produce to middlemen and to pay high fees for transportation. The middlemen end up making a profit and the peasants barely break even, they said. The government should finance trucks so that individual peasants and cooperatives are not dependent on the merchants, one peasant suggested. Several peasants raised the idea of setting up "farmers' markets" where they could sell their produce directly to consumers.

Orlando Jirón, an UNAG leader in Jinotega, talked about the need to increase training of peasants in agronomy to avoid

having to rely on professionals "who aren't from here and don't really care what happens to the crops." One young peasant interjected, "No matter what the problem, they always say 'spray gramoxone,'" a pesticide.

Jirón mentioned other problems on the cooperative and collective farms. He said there is often insufficient exploitation of the land, a lack of labor discipline by co-op members, poor use and care of equipment, unfair distribution of profits, and in some cases embezzlement of funds. The executive committees need to function more democratically and efficiently to take advantage of credit and government aid, he added.

In spite of the difficulties, many of the peasants are confident they can stay afloat. "The economic crisis is harder on people in the city," Rodolfo González, president of the Pedro Altamirano Cooperative, said. In the countryside "there's always a pig or a chicken. It's a better life."

Farm workers prevent state land from being given to private owner



La Gloria coffee farm in Matagalpa. Workers there successfully organized to keep the state-owned farm out of private hands.

BY SETH GALINSKY

MATAGALPA, Nicaragua — "We sent a letter to Comandante Wheelock telling him he couldn't make a decision like this without taking into account the workers," Francisco Miranda said. Miranda is a worker at the state-owned coffee farm La Gloria and organization secretary of the Association of Rural Workers (ATC) local there.

He was referring to a governmental order signed by Jaime Wheelock, minister of agrarian reform, to give La Gloria to Sergio Torres Ogregario as compensation for another property, which had been confiscated from Torres at the time of the 1979 Sandinista revolution.

Under Nicaragua's land reform law, owners whose land is expropriated are entitled to compensation. Denis Medina, Ministry of Agrarian Reform and Development (MIDINRA) spokesperson for the Matagalpa region, said the government did not have enough money to make a cash payment to Torres, a member of the National Assembly for the opposition Conservative Democratic Party. Instead, MIDINRA decided to turn La Gloria over to him.

La Gloria is one of 11 farms that belong to the state-owned Chale Haslam coffee corporation. "It's the most removed of the farms with few capital investments," Medina stated. "It's not very important for Chale Haslam."

Workers at La Gloria, however, are proud of how the farm functions. "If the government does not want it to stay as a state farm," Miranda said, "then they should let us have it

to work as a collective." He continued, "We want to work for the revolution, not for the bourgeoisie."

Miranda, along with other workers interviewed here, remembers how it used to be when La Gloria was under private ownership. "The food they gave us was incredibly bad. They fired workers whenever they felt like it," he stated. "We couldn't speak out," another worker added.

After the revolution La Gloria became state property. Living conditions for the 80 workers on the farm have improved, Miranda stated.

The workers' suspicions of what would happen if the farm was given to Torres were reinforced when Torres' son visited. According to Miranda, the son observed workers picking bunches of bananas from some trees on the farm. "He said he was going to hire security guards to stop this kind of thievery," Miranda commented. "But this is food the workers need to survive."

Another worker said, "If this is the way he's talking now, and he's still not the owner, it's really going to be a mess."

Miranda stated that another landowner in the area, a captain in the Sandinista People's Army stationed in Managua, also visited the farm to convince the workers that they should accept a return to private ownership.

When the MIDINRA announcement was made, the workers at La Gloria immediately began organizing. The local union president visited La Voz, the Nicaraguan government's

official radio station. His denunciation of the proposal to give the farm to Torres was broadcast several times.

The workers also received letters of support from the local unions on all of the other farms that are part of the Chale Haslam complex. "They told us to not give one inch," Miranda reported.

La Gloria's workers organized a committee to make sure that Torres couldn't take anything from the farm. "We were not armed, but the committee was prepared to make sure Torres would leave immediately, if he tried to come back," Miranda said with a smile.

Another committee of 10 workers hand delivered a protest letter to President Daniel Ortega. "We went to one assembly, but we got there too late," Miranda said. "So we followed him around until we caught up with him at breakfast and got the letter delivered."

Their efforts paid off. A few days after Torres had shown up at the farm saying he was going to be the new owner, MIDINRA reversed its decision.

"MIDINRA had no choice but to accept the workers' wishes," the ministry spokesperson stated. "The police cannot be used to evict them, nor can outside replacement workers be brought in."

The Matagalpa office of MIDINRA agrees with the workers, Medina said. "Sometimes top-down decisions are made," he added, "but the resolution of this matter demonstrates how democracy functions here."

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Cuba, U.S. delegates exchange solidarity at int'l youth fest

BY MARGARET JAYKO

PYONGYANG, Democratic People's Republic of Korea—The struggle of the world's peoples against imperialism's military aggression, economic exploitation, and social and cultural domination was the theme of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, held here July 1-8.

"Ninety miles from the U.S. coast you are building a new society," began a presentation by one of the 100 members of the U.S. delegation. A meeting between the U.S. and Cuban delegations was held at the Cuba club. Contingents from dozens of the 180 countries represented at the festival had club houses where people from other countries could come and get acquainted.

Cuba, continued the U.S. delegate, is a "shining example" in the area of health care, "which is not a right we have" in the United States. And Cuba is a "model of progress" in the area of equality between the races and the sexes.

Under the leadership of Fidel Castro, he continued, Cuba's only threat "is the hope it

Anti-imperialism is theme of gathering in North Korea.

and New Jersey and three Cuban compañeros: an athlete whose specialty is competitive riflery, a car driver, and a reporter for the Cuban daily *Juventud Rebelde*. We discussed the trial of Cuban Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa on charges of drug trafficking and Cuba's mass movement of volunteer labor known as the minibrigade movement.

During the first discussion at the anti-imperialist center — one of six centers where discussions were held on specific themes during the course of the festival — Eduardo Elilio Meléndez, a delegate from the Central American nation of Belize, took the floor to describe the imperialist-imposed problems facing his country.

Belize, he said, is a country of more than 160,000 people who speak several languages including Garifuna, English, Spanish, and Mayan. The current United Democratic Party regime is a "puppet of the U.S. government," he charged.

Belize ranks third in the world in per capita financial and military aid from Washington, he said. Meanwhile, the country's foreign debt has almost doubled since 1984.

The center that dealt with the rights of youth and students held a round table discussion on "protection of the rights of foreign residents, for equal rights and opportunities for refugees, minorities, immigrants."

A delegate from Korea discussed the national oppression faced by the 70,000 Koreans living in Japan. Two members of the Korean Youth League in Japan, in a subsequent conversation over dinner, displayed their alien registration books, which they must carry at all times. It includes not only



Militant/Margaret Jayko

Cuban delegates enter solidarity rally at Pyongyang festival

their photo but a fingerprint as well.

A delegate from Morocco discussed the problems faced by Africans who move to Europe. "We find ourselves," he said, "outside society." African immigrants don't receive a proper education and their living standard is very low. "We're among the poorest sectors of the population in the Netherlands," he reported. And it's almost impossible to become a naturalized citizen.

He hit on a theme echoed by subsequent speakers: the 1992 formation of a single market involving the 12 member states of the European Economic Community will include increased restrictions on the rights of immigrant workers in Europe.

These restrictions, he said, will make it easier for governments to expel workers from other countries, increase the difficulties of immigrant workers becoming united with their families, expand the limitations on the movement of immigrant workers within Europe; and put greater limits on schooling and jobs for immigrants.

An Italian delegate, who was an African immigrant, explained the oppressive conditions facing Africans in Italy, especially political refugees, who have no right to work in Italy.

An Algerian living in France described how police on the Metro trains constantly stop Algerians, asking them for their identification cards.

people of Panama; invaded Grenada; overthrew the government in Chile; and supports the repressive regime in El Salvador.

In the Middle East, Washington supports Israel against Lebanon and sent U.S. marines to Beirut.

He discussed the 19-month-long uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by Palestinians demanding the establishment of an independent and sovereign state and condemned the brutality the Israeli government has utilized in attempting to quell the rebellion.

While Washington talks about disarmament and human rights, he said, it uses its nuclear arsenal to try to control the just struggles of peoples from Korea to Palestine.

At an impromptu news conference in the lobby of the press center here, members of the delegation from France appealed for support for Jean-Philippe Casabonne. A 21-year-old student from France, he was arrested by police while in Spain in 1987 on charges of being a terrorist. His brother Pascal spoke at the news conference.

The police "evidence" consisted of the claim that a piece of paper with Casabonne's address was found on a couple arrested the previous day on charges of being members of the Basque Nation and Freedom (ETA), an organization that fights for the independence of the Basque country from Spain.

After his arrest, Casabonne was tortured by his interrogators, held incommunicado, and given a rigged trial where he was found guilty and sentenced to six years in jail.

He has been allowed to receive visits only from his family and he can receive letters written in Spanish only — a language he doesn't speak. An international defense effort is being mounted, said Pascal Casabonne, to demand that the French government intervene to win his brother's freedom. Pascal Casabonne can be reached at 4, Allé, Lamartine, 64000 Pau, France.

One of the national delegations that participated in the festival was from Palestine. A Palestine Liberation Organization representative gave one of the introductory speeches at the anti-imperialist center.

U.S. imperialism, he began, supports the repressive government in South Korea; mobilized a large military force to threaten the

One-day strike at New York hospitals

BY JON HILLSON

NEW YORK — Unionized workers walked off the job at 53 New York-area hospitals and nursing homes in a one-day strike on July 11.

Thousands joined a spirited protest aimed at breaking the current bargaining stonewall erected by the employers against Local 1199 of the Drug, Hospital and Health Care Employees Union.

Local 1199, one of the city's biggest unions, represents 47,000 workers — the majority Black, Latino, and female — at the affected institutions, where contracts expired June 30.

The League of Voluntary Hospitals and the Association of Voluntary Nursing Homes are the employers' bargaining agents.

The massive response to the strike call, and the turnout for the march, which police estimated at more than 25,000, showed the workers' mood.

They flowed out of Central Park behind reggae, salsa, and high school marching drum units, chanting "eight and a half," a reference to the terms of the agreement reached by 1199 with several Catholic hospitals a week earlier. That contract contained an 8.5 percent pay increase in each of two years. The pact, which

covers 5,000 Local 1199 workers, also includes modest benefit increases.

League negotiators have demanded trade-offs — benefit cuts for wage increases and slashing temporary employees from union rolls for benefit increases.

Many workers chanted, "They say cutback; we say fight back!"

The desire to fight, several hospital workers explained, is aimed at avoiding a strike. In 1984 Local 1199 struck for 47 days in a battle that led to deep division in the union. The League reneged on some provisions of the agreement, and many workers in staying out the 47 days never recouped monetary losses. Local 1199 has no strike fund.

A contingent of striking Eastern Airline workers — members of the International Association of Machinists and flight attendants — marched near the front of the demonstration. Hospital workers hailed the strikers, grabbing up buttons and pinning them next to their 1199 contract buttons.

"We belong here," IAM Local 1018 strike activist Frank Dingfield said, "wherever there's a fight, here, the coal miners, it's all the same thing."

On July 13 the union announced further one-day strikes for July 24 and July 31.

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U.S.-West German rivalry rising in Europe



Lance short-range nuclear missile in West Germany. Clash with U.S. President Bush over replacing missiles reflects West German government's growing political confidence and independence from Washington on issues concerning Europe.

Continued from front page

West German competitors when the new rules go into effect.

U.S. imperialism remains the lynchpin of world capitalism — the decisive political, economic, and military power. No competitor can equal — or do without — the enormous U.S. market for goods and capital and the vast U.S. productive capacity in both industry and agriculture.

In addition, the imperialist rulers of the Federal Republic have no nuclear weapons of their own. Nor can they replace Washington in its role as imperialist cop in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Nuclear weapons less decisive

The Soviet Union, however, has achieved basic parity in nuclear weapons development and deployment with the United States. As a result, the military significance of the nuclear weapons stationed in Europe has been reduced, and with it the political influence that Washington gained from its massive superiority over all its allies in nuclear arms.

Military weakness has thus far not been a decisive obstacle to the West German capitalists using governmental power to assert greater influence and independence from Washington on matters concerning Europe.

"We are not a great power. But we are also not a plaything for others," declared West German President Richard von Weizsäcker to the cheers of businessmen and politicians at a May 24 celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Federal Republic's constitution.

"Western Europe and the whole continent are decisively dependent on our contribution. Our political weight derives from our central location, the special situation of Berlin, the size of our population, our productivity and our stability."

Short-range missiles

On the diplomatic front, the West German government has taken a different tack than the Bush administration over how to respond to arms control proposals from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The differences between Washington and Bonn came into the open last spring as the Bush administration pushed to have NATO carry out a previous commitment to modernize short-range nuclear missiles in West Germany. The missiles are expected to become obsolete by 1995.

The 88 Lance missiles, which have a range of less than 300 miles, are aimed at potential targets in East Germany. On the other hand, West Germany is the prime potential target of the larger number of similar missiles maintained by the Warsaw Pact alliance in Eastern Europe.

Opposition to these missiles was reinforced after 1987, when Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan reached agreement on eliminating all intermediate-range nuclear missiles on both sides.

These included the Pershing 2 missiles that had been stationed in several NATO countries in the early 1980s despite massive antibomb

protests. The Soviet government agreed to destroy a still larger number of its own missiles.

Despite the 1987 agreement, the Bush administration — backed by Thatcher's government in Britain — opposed negotiations on reducing or eliminating the short-range missiles.

The White House held that the potential to fire these missiles was vital in the event of a war in Europe with Soviet-led conventional forces. Increasingly, however, Washington fears that a decline in the U.S. military role in Europe will accelerate the decline in U.S. political and economic influence.

The British government fears that arms control agreements will heighten pressure to reduce or give up its relatively small nuclear forces — marking another stage in the reduction of Britain's standing as an imperialist power.

In February West German Chancellor Kohl publicly called for leaving the door open on modernizing the short-range missiles by delaying the decision until 1991 or 1992 — while declaring himself a "strict opponent" of scrapping all the missiles.

Although Kohl was spurred by pressures stemming from electoral setbacks suffered by his Christian Democratic Party, the dispute over this issue symbolized the West German regime's growing willingness to challenge traditional U.S. dominance of the NATO alliance.

The growing pressures on the members of the NATO alliance were reflected when the Pentagon announced that U.S. forces, for the first time since 1967, would not participate in NATO war games held in February. U.S. officials admitted the step was a concession to public opinion in Western Europe.

Soviet offers on arms

At a March 6 joint meeting of foreign ministers from NATO and the Warsaw Pact, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze proposed that within three years armed forces and conventional arms in Europe — from troops to combat aircraft — be reduced to levels 10 to 15 percent below those currently fielded by either NATO or the Warsaw Pact. He also called for negotiations to eliminate the short-range missiles.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker dismissed the proposals as "sweeping but impractical." But the Soviet offer increased the obstacles to uniting NATO behind keeping the short-range missiles.

On April 20 U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney announced the administration's agreement to postpone the decision on replacing the short-range missiles until the early 1990s. The British government also conceded to this.

On April 27 Kohl's government called not only for delaying the modernization decision but "for the early commencement of negotiations on short-range nuclear missiles aimed at establishing equal ceilings at lower levels."

Among NATO members, the governments

of Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Norway, and Spain backed Kohl's position. Only the governments of Britain and the Netherlands publicly supported the Bush administration's stand against talks on short-range missiles.

The differences appeared to widen in May, when Gorbachev announced that the Soviet government would remove 500 of its nuclear warheads from Europe. U.S. and British officials dismissed the step May 12 as a "propaganda ploy," while West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher termed it "a step in the right direction."

In West Germany opinion polls indicated that more than 89 percent of those questioned opposed updating the short-range missiles.

On May 30 a NATO summit held in the Belgian capital of Brussels ended with the unanimous approval of a communiqué, based on a proposal presented by Bush, that contained further concessions to the West German government.

Bush called for an agreement on slashing conventional arms, including the withdrawal of 30,000 of the U.S. troops in Europe, to be reached within one year by the NATO governments and the Warsaw Pact, made up of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European allies.

"Once implementation of such an agreement is under way," the NATO summit declaration stated, negotiations could open on the "partial reduction" of short-range nuclear missiles "to equal and verifiable levels."

The decision on replacing the NATO missiles was put off until 1992.

Although the British government went along with the proposal, officials in London made little attempt to hide their view that Bush had conceded too much in agreeing in principle to negotiate at some future date with Moscow about the missiles.

Despite the possibility of a "reduced U.S. military presence," Bush stated after the meeting that "America is and will remain a European power." He stressed that the agreement did not allow for the elimination of nuclear armaments in Europe. "Partial means partial," he said.

The West German foreign minister gave a slightly different spin to the accord. "We have gone from a commitment to modernization [of short-range missiles] without negotiation to a commitment to negotiations without modernization."

Gorbachev in Bonn

Following the Brussels meeting, Bush made a diplomatic visit to West Germany.

On June 12 Gorbachev opened a four-day visit to West Germany by declaring at a state dinner in Bonn that the NATO proposal was "a serious and specific response" to Soviet proposals. This meant, he said, that agreement on reducing conventional forces could be reached "much earlier than previously thought."

The *New York Times* described the response in West Germany to the Soviet

president's visit as "unbridled enthusiasm."

The enthusiasm reflected the openings that the West German capitalist class sees to expand economic and political influence in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The governments of the Soviet Union, Poland, and Hungary — countries where capitalism was overthrown decades ago — are now seeking to expand their trade with and obtain more investment and aid from Western Europe, the United States, and Japan. These moves are among the steps being taken by the bureaucratic castes that govern these countries to counter a developing social and economic crisis and head off social explosions such as those that shook Poland in 1980-81 and resulted in the formation of the Solidarity trade union.

West German edge

The West German capitalists have an edge over their rivals thus far in taking advantage of openings in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Half of East Germany's trade with capitalist countries is with West German capitalists, who have made concessions on tariffs to facilitate this.

The Federal Republic is the Soviet Union's leading trading partner in Western Europe and North America. Trade between the two countries increased sharply last year and jumped another 17 percent in the first four months of 1989.

With \$66 million invested so far, West German big business leads the advanced capitalist countries in investment in joint ventures with the Gorbachev regime in the Soviet Union. U.S. investment currently stands at \$23 million.

Bankers in West Germany are the chief lenders to Poland, which owes about \$40 billion to capitalist financial institutions.

According to a report in the June 14 *New York Times*, Gorbachev "suggested that West German companies could use Soviet research sites on a contract basis, or launch satellites from Soviet rockets."

The *Times* reported, "Mr. Gorbachev also proposed cooperation in ship and aircraft construction, as well as deeper German involvement in modernizing the Soviet consumer goods industry."

The 11 agreements signed by the two governments included two economic ones offering protection for West German investments in the Soviet Union and establishing a training program for Soviet managers.

Gorbachev and Kohl also signed a joint declaration, the first time that the Soviet president had done so with any of the heads of state of Western Europe and North America.

"In just three weeks," Kohl boasted in a television interview after Gorbachev departed, "the two most important representatives of international politics . . . have visited us as guests. And both told the German people: you play an important role in the leadership of Europe."

Good start for New York ballot effort

Continued from front page

an evening rally featuring James Harris.

As they petition, supporters of the campaign are setting up tables with Pathfinder literature, the campaign newspapers the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the campaign platform: *Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

During the first three days of the petitioning campaign, more than 150 Action Programs were sold.

"People we run into are genuinely interested in the questions raised in the SWP platform," said Shur. "They recognize that the economic conditions it discusses are more and more coming to be true, and the proposals it puts forward make sense," he added.

"By far the best response has been to the campaign's support for building a movement to defend a woman's right to abortion," Shur pointed out.

The Young Socialist Alliance is actively participating in the SWP petitioning effort. The YSA is hosting a series of classes for young people met during petitioning who are interested in finding out more about what the socialist campaign stands for.

On the evening of July 28 the SWP campaign will host a reception for its candidates. The party is also running Greg McCartan for Manhattan district attorney; Tom Fiske, Man-

hattan borough president; Jon Hillson, City Council, 6th District; and Patti Iiyama, Brooklyn borough president.

The petitioning effort is scheduled to continue through July 29. For more information call: (212) 675-6740 or (718) 398-6983.

Whites get home loans easier than Blacks

Predominantly white areas of 14 major U.S. cities get three times the mortgage money available from banks as in areas that are predominantly Black and Latino.

A study by the Center for Community Change indicates racism against Blacks and Latinos plays a major role in who gets money to purchase housing.

In the Washington, D.C., area for example, in areas 75 percent or more white, one in nine housing units are owner-occupied. Where Blacks and other minorities made up more than three-quarters of the population, only 4 percent are owner-occupied.

A spokesperson for the American Banking Association denounced the center's report, because it allegedly did not take into account mortgage applicants' unacceptable credit history or ability to come up with a big enough down payment.

ALABAMA

Birmingham

The Eastern Airlines and Pittston Coal Strikes: Workers on the Line. Speakers: Michael Drake, striking Eastern Airlines worker, member International Association of Machinists Local 1690; Alyson Kennedy, member United Mine Workers of America Local 2368, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 1306 1st Ave. N. Donation: \$2.50. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (205) 323-3079.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Emergency Demonstration Against Deportation of Palestinian Activists on Trial. Wed., July 26, 12 noon. Federal Building, 300 N Los Angeles St. (corner Temple and Los Angeles streets). Sponsor: Committee for Justice to Stop the McCarran-Walter Act Deportations. For more information call (213) 413-2935.

San Francisco

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Live television transmission from Nicaragua of President Daniel Ortega. Dance to salsa sounds and music by The Looters, with special guests Rafael Marquez, Steven Herrick, Lichi Fuentes, Barbara Dane, Pete Sears, and Mimi Faria. Sat., July 22, 6 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.). Longshore Hall, 400 North Point (near Fisherman's Wharf). Donation: \$12, \$5 low income. Proceeds to aid Nicaragua. (Contribute a day's wage to the "Day's Wage for 10 Years of Freedom" campaign and get in free.) Sponsors: Barricada International Support Group; Centro Cultural Nicaraguense; Committee Against U.S. Intervention in Central America, Palo Alto; Committee for Health Rights in Central America; others. For more information call (415) 626-8053 or (408) 288-6678.

Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast: The Struggle for Peace and Autonomy. Speaker: Matilde Zimmerman, recently spent three months working on Atlantic Coast in Puerto Cabezas. Translation to Spanish. Sun., July 23, 7 p.m. 3284 23rd St. (near Mission). Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

No to Colonialism — The Truth About the Plebiscite in Puerto Rico. Speakers: representatives from Puerto Rican Affirmation Committee and Socialist Workers Party. Fri., July 28, 7 p.m. 6826 S Stony Island Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 363-7322 or 363-7136.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Crisis Facing Family Farmers — From New Zealand to the United States. Speakers: Denis Hiestand, dairy farmer from New Zealand touring the U.S.; representative Iowa American Agriculture Movement. Translation to Spanish. Sat., July 22. Reception 6:30 p.m.; forum 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (515) 246-1695.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Eastern Strike: What's At Stake for Working People, the Challenges Ahead. Speaker: Ernest Mailhot, member of International Association of Machinists Local 1018 at New York's La Guardia Airport, on strike at Eastern Airlines, Social-

ist Workers Party candidate for New Jersey State Assembly. Wed., July 26, 7 p.m. 605 Massachusetts Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MINNESOTA

St. Paul

Affirmative Action: Will Court Ruling Provoke Fightback? Speakers: Chris Nisan, Twin Cities Committee Against Racism; Denise McInerney, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Minneapolis; others. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

The Fight of Family Farmers in New Zealand. Speaker: Denis Hiestand, dairy farmer, leader of Federated Farmers of New Zealand. Sat., July 29, 7:30 p.m. 508 N Snelling Ave. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City

Defend Affirmative Action. A panel discussion. Sun., July 30, 7 p.m. 5534 Troost. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 444-7880.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Cuba Today: A Report by Recent Visitors.

Panel of participants in recently returned 20th anniversary Venceremos Brigade tour of Cuba. Sun., July 30, 5 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (201) 643-3341.

NEW YORK

Manhattan

Cancel the Third World Debt. Speaker: Don Rojas, former press secretary to assassinated Grenadian prime minister Maurice Bishop; co-ordinating committee Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 191 7th Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

TENNESSEE

Knoxville

AFL-CIO Solidarity Revival. Special guests from United Mine Workers of America, District 28: Jackie Stump, president; Don McCamey, secretary-treasurer; Daughters of Mother Jones. Sat., July 22, 3 p.m. World's Fair Park. Food and money donations for the mine workers welcomed. Sponsor: Knoxville-Oak Ridge Area Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Additional events: Coalfields Benefit Concert, 7:30 p.m.; square dance, 10 p.m. Laurel Theatre, 16th and Laurel. Sponsored by a coalition of East Tennessee organizations, including Commission on Religion in Appalachia, Coal Employment Project,

and Jubilee Community Arts.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

In Defense of Socialism. Public meeting to introduce the new Pathfinder book *In Defense of Socialism*, a collection of speeches by Fidel Castro on 30th anniversary of Cuban revolution. Fri., July 28, 6:30 p.m. 181 Glebe Point Rd., 2nd floor, Glebe. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookroom. For more information call (02) 692-0319.

BRITAIN

London

Right to Stay! Right to Work! Speaker: Ihsan Qadir, member Kurdish Refugees Support Group. Fri., July 28, 7:30 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forum. For more information call 01-928-7947.

Sheffield

For a Woman's Right to Choose: The Struggle for Abortion Rights. Speaker: Helen Warnecke, member Amalgamated Engineering Union, participated in U.S. demonstration for abortion rights in Washington. Wed., July 26, 7:30 p.m. Sheffield and District Afro-Caribbean Community Association, 48 The Wicker. Donation £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0742 583641.

Celebrate 30 Years of the Cuban Revolution

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

30 Years of the Cuban Revolution and 20 Years of the Venceremos Brigade. Talks on the history of Cuba, the brigade, and the current state of the U.S. government's disinformation campaign against Cuba. Dance following program. Sat., July 29, 7:30 p.m. 2616 Hobart Ave. (at Adams).

San Francisco

Reports from 1989 20th Anniversary Venceremos Brigade. Slideshow presentations, Afro-Cuban music, dancing, food, poetry readings. Sun., July 30, 4-9 p.m. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Donation requested. Sponsors: Venceremos Brigade and Committee to Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. For more information call (415) 530-0264.

FLORIDA

Miami

Program includes videos from Cuba about the rectification process and its progress. Sat., July 29, 7 p.m. Little Haiti Activities Center, 28 NE 54th St. Sponsors: Alliance of Cuban Workers, Peace Council, Antonio Maceo Brigade, Central America Solidarity Committee (LACASA), Socialist Workers Party.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

Celebrate Cuban Revolution and 10th Anniversary of Nicaraguan Revolution. Hear televised address by President Daniel Ortega. Dance to music of Rafo and the International Combo. Sat., July 22, 8 p.m. St. Pius Church, 1901 S Ashland. Donation: \$10. Sponsor: July 22nd Coalition. For more information call (312) 728-5561, 276-5626, or 761-0316.

IOWA

Des Moines

Speakers: Ed Hasse, participated in 20th anniversary Venceremos Brigade tour to Cuba; others. Sat., July 29, 7:30 p.m. Thoreau Center, 3500 Kingman Ave. Donation: \$3. For more information call (515) 255-9595.

MASSACHUSETTS

Cambridge

30 Years of the Cuban Revolution: A Cuban-American Perspective. Speaker: Andrés Gómez, editor of *Areito* magazine and one of founders of Antonio Maceo Brigade. Party with slideshow, videos, and photo exhibits will follow. Sat., July 29, 7:30 p.m. Old Cambridge Bridge Baptist Church, 1151 Massachusetts Ave. Sponsor: José Martí Project.

NEBRASKA

Omaha

Speakers: Hafeni Hatutale, member of South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia; Joel Gajardo, professor at University of Nebraska at Lincoln, former representative of Chilean government under Allende on several trips to Cuba; Rita Melgares, attorney, former Omaha chairperson for Kiko Martinez Defense Committee; Joan Paltrineri, Socialist Workers Party; representative of General Union of Palestinian Students; Doug Lee-Regier, board member, Unitarian Church. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Church, 3114 Harvey. Sponsor: Committee to Celebrate the Cuban Revolution. For more information call (402) 553-0245.

FLORIDA

Manhattan

Speakers and greetings from Cuba, El Salvador, Panama, African National Congress of South Africa, South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia; others. Sat., July 29, 7:30 p.m. Casa de las Américas, 104 W 14 St.

Sponsors: Venceremos Brigade, Antonio Maceo Brigade, Casa de las Américas. For more information call (212) 769-4293.

TEXAS

Houston

Speakers: Stephen Gittens, Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement; Sebileto Matabane, co-ordinator, Texas Coalition Against Apartheid, participant in 1989 Venceremos Brigade to Cuba; Gilberto Rivera, coordinator, CAMILA (Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America); Greg Rosenberg, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., July 29, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Almeda. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum/Foro Perspectiva Mundial. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Speakers: Alan Gregory, co-ordinator, North Carolina contingent of Venceremos Brigade; participants in 20th anniversary Venceremos Brigade; member African National Congress; Rich Stuart, Socialist Workers Party, member United Transportation Union. Sun., July 23, 7 p.m. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

CANADA

Toronto

Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Nicaraguan Revolution and 30 Years of Cuban Revolution. Speakers: Rolando Rivero, Cuban consul general in Toronto speaking on 30th anniversary; Rosemary Rae, participant in Canadian Action for Nicaragua July 19 Construction Brigade. Sat., July 22, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W., Suite 400. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

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Twin Cities: 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

Kansas City: 5534 Troost Ave. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 444-7880.

St. Louis: 4907 Martin Luther King Dr. Zip: 63113. Tel: (314) 361-0250.

NEBRASKA

Omaha: 140 S. 40th St. Zip: 68131. Tel: (402) 553-0245.

NEW JERSEY

Newark: 141 Halsey. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 64

Still #1 — Even though it's flying far fewer flights than other airlines, Eastern still leads in customer complaints. The Department of Transportation says that in May, Eastern had twice as many com-



Harry Ring

plaints as any other line. Gripes included fare juggling, overbooking, lost baggage, and lousy service.

Trust Uncle — South Koreans are boycotting U.S. grapefruit, contending it's contaminated with Alar. U.S. officials assured the chemical is used on apples. They neglected to mention that, to quicken the ripening process, early season grapefruit is doused with a lead-arsenic compound that causes cancer and brain damage.

Well, that's different — With inflation running at 8.5 percent, the British government is trying to fasten a 7 percent wage increase on striking government and rail workers. Meanwhile, it was reported that the highest paid directors at five top British companies enjoyed salary increases last year averaging near

50 percent.

Didn't steal it fair 'n square — In listing the world's billionaires, *Forbes* magazine did not include royalty or heads of state, because their wealth comes from "feudal fortunes, not capitalistic ones."

Eh? — "He assured me freedom would reign here." — William Walker, U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, after meeting with the new, ultraright president who just introduced a bill further curbing the right to strike and hold public protests, plus a four-year jail term for anyone who "spreads or promulgates propaganda that subverts the public order."

Now we get it — The reason Congress members need a wage hike is so that their pay will be more than their pension. Under a little-noted pension plan with built-in cost-of-living increases, some now pocket more than when they were assertedly working. Three have already drawn more than a million each in pension checks.

To your good health — In a check of thousands of eggs at Birmingham shops, British food inspectors found one in five unfit to eat.

Just let it all hang out — "It would be difficult to make it into a bribery case. In Texas it's almost

impossible to bribe a public official as long as you report it." — A Texas law official on the chicken processor who handed out \$10,000 checks on the floor of the state senate prior to a vote on a bill to curb workers' compensation.

Thought for the week — "The Energy Dept. has contracted with anthropologists, archaeologists, linguists, and semioticians to help in designing warning signs that humans could understand 25,000 years from now, when English presumably will be an ancient and indecipherable language." — An article on the pilot nuclear waste dump being dug in New Mexico.

Eastern strikers set rallies to protest flights

Continued from front page
port and Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport.

The sweeping order bans mass picketing and forbids strikers from doing anything that "disturbs the peace" or prevents passengers from having "free access" to the carrier's facilities. It directs the unions to comply with an April 5 order limiting the number of pickets at Eastern and Continental facilities.

Although Eastern security personnel regularly photograph and videotape strikers' picket lines and demonstrations, strikers are now forbidden to videotape Eastern customers and flight crews. The order also bans speech or picket signs that question the airline's safety.

Arguing for the order, Eastern attorney Mark Landsman said, "An impression is being formed by passengers we are trying desperately to win back. They can go to another airline and not be hassled. That goes a long way to making a decision in the future."

The judge's action followed a July 14 demonstration at La Guardia. The action, which drew some 400 strike supporters, had a major impact on passengers, workers, and

traffic in and around the airport. The striking unions are appealing the restraining order.

Flights 'zeroed out'

The strike by 17,000 IAM members, flight attendants, and pilots at Eastern is facing a major challenge with the airline's steps to restart a significant number of flights for the first time since the walkout began March 4.

On July 2 Eastern's daily scheduled number of flights went from 80 to 226, with a passenger load that has averaged 60 percent.

The next step is the addition of 164 more flights August 1, which would bring total daily flights to 390. Before the strike, Eastern had 1,040 flights each day.

There are growing indications, however, that the carrier's plan is running into trouble.

The increased strike activity in recent weeks has once again thrown a spotlight on the fight by striking Eastern workers to defend themselves against the company's union-busting efforts.

Eastern President Philip Bakes told recent congressional hearings that the airline would not have enough pilots to meet its August

schedule and would have to ask its pilots to fly more hours.

August flights are already being canceled. "Strike-crippled Eastern Airlines — fearing a shortage of pilots — is scaling back its expansion plans for August by quietly eliminating dozens of flights during the first two weeks of the month," the *Atlanta Constitution* reported July 18.

Eastern officials conceded July 17 that "some flights are being 'zeroed out' in computer reservation systems — listed as being full, so that no seats can be sold, but not actually canceled," the article continued.

"Eastern would not say how many flights have been eliminated by this method. But travel industry sources said that at least 52 flights through Atlanta — 26 into Hartsfield International Airport and 26 out — appear to be affected."

Negotiations with pilots

The Air Line Pilots Association, which is in court-ordered negotiations with Eastern, has refused the airline's latest settlement offer to return only 1,200 of the 3,300 striking pilots to work. Under the airline's offer, 1,100 scab pilots would keep their jobs. This includes 300 who crossed the picket line to

return to work, 300 hired or trained since the strike started, and 500 pilots still being trained.

In addition, the company demanded \$45 million a year in work rule and benefits concessions from the pilots.

On July 14 Eastern petitioned the bankruptcy court to release \$100 million of the \$360.3 million it has cleared so far in sales of its assets, to finance ongoing operations. The money is being held in escrow. A hearing on the request is set for July 20.

The airline's request included figures for losses since the strike began: \$81.6 million in April, \$82.4 million in May, and \$61.8 million in June.

Reorganization plan

Lorenzo's final reorganization plans are scheduled to be filed in bankruptcy court July 21.

On July 18 the bankruptcy judge approved the sale of more Eastern assets — \$43.35 million in planes and engines. Part of the airline's reorganization plan is the sale of \$1.8 billion in assets.

Chicago commodities speculator Joseph Ritchie said July 18 that he had a commitment from Wall Street investment firm Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. to arrange \$280 million in debt financing to arrange a possible buyout of Eastern. Ritchie said he was talking to AFL-CIO officials about helping finance the buyout with \$200 million in union funds, in exchange for an employee stock ownership plan. Earlier, officials of the striking unions indicated a willingness to agree to millions in concessions to help make the sale possible.

Lorenzo, however, says the airline is not for sale.

New York airport march: 'Don't fly Eastern!'

BY SUSAN LaMONT

NEW YORK — Chants of "We are union" and "Join our strike" echoed through La Guardia Airport July 14, as some 400 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters demonstrated for two and a half hours.

The event began with a brief rally at International Association of Machinists Local 1018's strike headquarters, located in the La Détente Restaurant a few blocks from the airport. Strikers and members of other unions, including a large contingent from United Auto Workers District 65, packed the downstairs meeting room and gave a warm welcome to the speakers. Local 1018 President John DiPaola chaired the program.

Officials from UAW District 65, the International Union of Electrical Workers, Utility Workers Union, and International Federation of Flight Attendants brought greetings to the rally, as did a striking Eastern flight attendant and pilot.

Roger Colley, a United Mine Workers member from Clintwood, Virginia, on strike at Pittston Coal company, also spoke.

"I'm not much of a public speaker, so I just want to say three things," Colley told the crowd. "First, we support you 100 percent. Strikes are only won through solidarity, and we have to stick together. Second, no one ever gave you anything. Third, you can't be afraid to fight and even to go to jail." His remarks, which lasted barely one minute, met with a roar of approval. Seven Pittston strikers and family members were at La Guardia that day to back the Eastern strikers.

After the rally, which ended at about 5:00 p.m., everyone went outside, lined up behind the IAM's strike banner, and marched over to the airport, crossing above Grand Central Parkway. Rush hour traffic was already heavy, and many motorists and truck drivers along the way waved and honked their horns to show support for the strikers.

As marchers neared the airport, a line of several dozen cops outfitted with helmets and truncheons became visible. They were guarding the doors to Eastern and Continental's

ticket counters.

For the next two hours, strike supporters marched in front of the upper and lower levels of the terminal, often spilling from the sidewalk onto the street. Every time the marchers — who were clearly in a fighting mood — got to the Eastern and Continental doors, they stopped for prolonged chants of "Don't fly Eastern," "Don't fly Continental."

The airport was busy with thousands of late afternoon and early evening travelers. Traffic in and around the airport was slowed as the demonstrators marched around the terminal.

The visibility — and audibility — of the march had a big impact on passengers, their friends and family, bus and limousine drivers, and airport workers of every kind.

"I think it's terrific," said an older woman, referring to the march. She had just gotten off a US Air flight from Pittsburgh. "The workers are getting a raw deal," said another man from the same flight. "I think they're right," commented a young man heading for a Trans World Airlines flight.

Flight attendants from other airlines and food concessions workers crowded in terminal doorways to watch. Many gave the "thumbs up" sign to the marchers. Sky caps and taxi dispatchers smiled and waved support. There were waves and cheers from passengers inside the terminal.

Airport and Eastern security personnel were much in evidence around Eastern's facilities, including a couple of grim-faced men who videotaped the marchers as they chanted in front of the doors.

Several passengers in line at the Eastern counter walked out when they saw the picket line and realized what was happening.

Toward the end of the demonstration, the cops cleared a path to Eastern's doors and forced the marchers to stand behind metal barriers on each side of the doorways.

Strikers were pleased by the turnout for the action, the largest in some weeks. Many spoke about the need for more demonstrations. "We need to do this every week," said

one flight attendant.

Marching back to the union headquarters at 7:30 p.m., on the overpass that crosses the Grand Central Parkway, a din of honking horns again greeted the marchers from the bumper-to-bumper traffic below.

— 10 AND 25 YEARS AGO —

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 27, 1979

Dictator Anastasio Somoza flew into exile in Miami July 17. It was a day of celebration for the Nicaraguan workers, peasants, and urban poor.

When Somoza finally resigned as part of a deal engineered by U.S. negotiators, he named Francisco Urcuyo, the president of the Chamber of Deputies, as his successor. Less than 24 hours later, the dictator-for-a-day had fled to Guatemala.

Having done everything possible through his diplomatic intervention to prolong the bloodbath, President Carter is now exerting economic pressure on the provisional government. Sergio Ramírez, a member of the provisional government, said July 15 that a number of governments had offered reconstruction aid "with no conditions." He added that "only the United States made demands."

THE MILITANT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

July 27, 1964

NEW YORK, July 22 — Armed with nothing more than courage, bottles, bricks, bare fists, and occasional Molotov cocktails, Harlem's residents, provoked by years of

savage brutality by New York's corrupt and racist cops, managed to fight the tactical riot force of the police to a stalemate in three days of demonstrations and open hostilities.

The immediate cause of the outbreak was the killing on July 16 of a 15-year-old Negro boy, James Powell, by a white police lieutenant wearing civilian clothes.

A demonstration was organized by the Congress of Racial Equality on Saturday night, July 18, in front of a police station in central Harlem to protest.

The police charged the demonstration, then went on a rampage throughout the district, provoking rioting, which continued into the early morning with scores of injuries and some stores smashed and looted. The police fired 2,000 rounds, using all they had. They killed one Jay Jenkins, who, they claimed, was hurling bricks from a rooftop, and wounded scores of others.

All Sunday, Harlem was occupied as if by a foreign power. Helmeted riot cops were stationed at all strategic corners and swarmed in groups down the main streets. The cops waited until evening, however, before resuming the offensive.

They began by rushing people off corners and off the island in the middle of the avenue, thereby precipitating small-scale panics. But after being scattered by a few charges of this type, people began to stand their ground and talk back. Panicky cops then drew their pistols and fired into the crowd and into the air as bottles and bricks came hurtling from all directions.

10 years of Nicaragua revolution

All those fighting to liberate their countries from imperialist domination and intervention and to defend their rights and livelihoods from capitalist assault should mark the 10th anniversary of the revolution in Nicaragua by protesting Washington's attempts to use economic and political pressure, backed up by military threats, to impose a proimperialist regime on that country. And they should reaffirm their solidarity with the fighters of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

On July 19, 1979, the Nicaraguan toilers, led by the FSLN, overthrew the capitalist-landlord tyranny headed by Anastasio Somoza and seized political power.

The workers and farmers established their own government, which they wielded as a powerful weapon to begin to take their destiny into their own hands:

- A series of expropriations of capitalist industries and agricultural properties took place, putting those productive enterprises under state control.

- Nicaraguan working people were armed, trained, and organized on a mass scale to defend their revolutionary power.

- Government power was used to launch and strengthen unions and other organizations of urban and rural workers and of peasants — the Sandinista Workers Federation (CST), Association of Rural Workers (ATC), National Union of Farmers and Ranchers (UNAG), and others.

- Poor peasants and farm laborers pressed their demands for land through land occupations and other direct actions. They appealed for and won the support of the government in many cases.

- A literacy campaign was launched, and provision of health care, food, and housing for the toilers was prioritized.

- The revolution gave an impulse to the struggles of Nicaraguan women, and Blacks and Indian peoples, for equality and against oppression.

- The new government adopted an outspoken anti-imperialist stance on vital world political questions from the Middle East to Cuba.

The deepgoing character of the revolution inspired working people throughout the region and the world.

The Nicaraguan toilers triumphed over the Somoza dictatorship at the time of a rising wave of revolutionary victories. In the months prior to the Nicaraguan revolution, the U.S.-backed monarchy in Iran was overthrown, the Pol Pot tyranny in Cambodia was toppled, and a workers' and farmers' government, led by Maurice Bishop, came to power on the Caribbean island of Grenada.

These and other victories in the world — especially that in Nicaragua — gave a powerful new impetus to the socialist revolution in Cuba, which had stood as a beacon of hope for two decades, alone in the Americas.

The newly established Nicaraguan workers' and farmers' government was part of this international revolutionary advance, contributed mightily to it, and drew strength and encouragement from it.

A measure of the profound impact of the revolution in Nicaragua on the struggle between conflicting social classes on a world scale has been Washington's unremitting hostility.

The administration of former president James Carter did everything it could to salvage the Somoza regime from the wrath of Nicaragua's workers and farmers.

When that failed, the Carter administration attempted to work with the ruling classes in several Latin American countries to insure installation of a government dominated by Nicaraguan capitalists. But that too flopped, along with Washington's proposal for a joint counterrevolutionary military intervention sponsored by the Organization of American States.

With the installation of the workers' and farmers' government in Nicaragua, the U.S. rulers sought to use military and political pressure to undermine and overthrow it.

In 1981 Washington initiated its dirty contra war, using the remnants of Somoza's National Guard, which had fled to Honduras as the core of a mercenary army.

This criminal aggression lasted for more than six years, resulting in thousands of dead and wounded, hundreds of thousands of refugees, and massive economic and physical destruction of the country. The Nicaraguan toilers, however, were able to defeat the contras, creating a crisis for U.S. policy-makers.

But the crushing of the CIA-run contras did not spell the end of Washington's arrogant attempts to overthrow the FSLN government and deny the Nicaraguan people the right to determine their own government.

The bipartisan policy in Washington has been and remains one of finding a way to replace the FSLN government, not merely to pressure it for more concessions to Nicaragua's exploiting classes. Washington's central political demand, shared by the capitalist opposition forces inside Nicaragua, is that the current government be replaced with a new government that would incorporate non-FSLN figures, including some former pro-contra forces. Nothing short of this will satisfy Washington's demands. That's why Congress continues to finance the contras to the tune of \$4.5 million every month.

Working people around the globe have every interest in helping the Nicaraguan toilers to thwart this illegal and immoral interference in the affairs of a sovereign nation. We must demand an end to all U.S. aid to the contras and to the trade embargo, massive government aid to Nicaragua, and the unconditional normalization of relations with Managua.



Celebrating the French revolution 200 years later

BY DOUG JENNESS

The heads of state of the seven most powerful capitalist countries were an unlikely lot to be in Paris celebrating the 200th anniversary of the French revolution or the anniversary of any revolution. There's not a revolutionary bone among them.

But this wasn't really a problem, since the great spectacle in Paris didn't have much to do with what happened in France 200 years ago. And reportedly President George Bush even missed the red-white-and-blue, flag-waving, fireworks-bursting-in-midair grand finale to get a little shut-eye.

If there was any content at all to the summit discussions of the seven leaders while they were in Paris, it was aimed at keeping the Third World debt crisis from provoking

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

revolutionary explosions.

George Bush, Margaret Thatcher, Helmut Kohl, et. al., are the chief representatives of a social system that is in decay — a system whose only perspective for humanity is more wars for profits, massive unemployment, breakdowns, hunger, homelessness, and spoliation of the environment.

The reactionary capitalist class today is light years away from the revolution that overturned centuries of feudal social relations and institutions in France, brought the victory of the newly dominant capitalist class, and ushered in a new era.

Like the English revolution in the previous century the French revolution was genuinely international.

Karl Marx explained that they were "revolutions of a European type. They did not represent the victory of a particular class of society over the *old political order*; they proclaimed the *political order of the new European society*. The bourgeoisie was victorious in these revolutions, but the victory of the bourgeoisie was at that time the victory of a new social order, the victory of bourgeois ownership over feudal ownership, of nationality over provincialism, of competition over the guild, of the division of the land over primogeniture, of the rule of the landowner over the domination of the owner by the land, of enlightenment over superstition, of the family over the family name, of industry over heroic idleness, of bourgeois law over medieval privileges."

While 200 years later capitalism's top politicians either danced, drank, or slept their way through what passed as a commemoration of one of the most momentous events in human history, the ideologues for today's capitalist rulers were churning out distortion after distortion about the revolution and what it accomplished.

The headlines from a small sample of articles gives a feel for the direction of this obfuscation: "Did Anything Change?" "The Trouble With Revolution," "A Failed Revolution," and "1789 — A Middle-Class Revolution That Went Wrong."

Among the main themes are that the French revolution did not represent a fundamental social change. Feudal social relations had essentially been cleared away. The revolution was primarily a search for efficient management. Its offspring were dictatorship, extremism, and excessive violence.

Many of these notions have been dished out in a book published earlier this year by Harvard professor Simon Schama, *Citizen: A Chronicle of the French Revolution*. And a good deal of the coverage in the United States of the bicentennial has focused on reviewing and praising this 948-page volume.

The reviewer for the *New York Times Book Review*, for example, noted, "The French revolution, according to Mr. Schama, was no bourgeois thrust against stodgy despotism or anachronistic aristocracy. The old regime was not old, nor did it act anachronistic, fusty or decrepit. Neither stagnant nor reactionary, the French nobility, at least its most audile and visible members, were more open to new blood, ideas and ventures than they had ever been."

Another common thread is that the revolution started out all right in 1789, but as it became more extreme — that is as the mobilization and organization of the most exploited toilers deepened — it went berserk in a frenzy of terror. This, however, simply expresses the disdain and fear the capitalists and their hangers-on today have of the most revolutionary classes of town and country and their methods.

In France between 1789 and 1794 the toilers dealt with the monarchy, landlordism, and medievalism in France in a more thorough manner than did the capitalists of that day who were the revolution's main victors.

That is why today from every pulpit, academic rostrum, and editorial page, the supporters of capitalism attempt to either defang the French revolution, pooh-poohing what revolutions can achieve, or use it to show the inevitable evil consequences of all revolutions.

But working people are not going to be deterred by this, and while not copying the methods of 1789-94, we will draw inspiration from the determination of the revolutionary working people of that time.

Censoring Palestinian voices

The Story of Kufur Shamma, a play about a Palestinian man's 40-year search for survivors from his village after Israel's 1948 war against the Arab countries, will not be seen at the Public Theater in New York City.

The decision of Joseph Papp to prevent a play about Palestinian life from being performed at his theater should be denounced. Papp has a reputation of being a progressive and pioneered in such projects as free performances of Shakespeare in city parks.

The play is being presented by El-Hakawati Palestinian Theater Company of Jerusalem, which is touring North America. Papp said he canceled the scheduled performances because he did not want "to make a statement at this particular moment by presenting a play dealing with the Arab-Israeli world from a Palestinian point of view."

Papp suggested that the cancellation was justified since

he had "never presented an Israeli play." His evenhanded approach to censorship omits the fact that the Israeli rulers' point of view is more than adequately represented at every level of the U.S. government, broadcast news, movies, and other mass media.

This is an example of the censorship, official and unofficial, that Palestinians and other Arabs often face when they attempt to make their views known to people in the United States.

Fortunately, the effort to quash *The Story of Kufur Shamma* has not been all that successful. The play will be performed from July 26 to August 1 at the Dance Theater Workshop. The theater company will then go on to Lexington, Virginia; Woodstock, New York; Vancouver, British Columbia; Seattle; Pittsburgh; and Atlanta.

Is ruling class to blame for abortion curbs?

BY MARGARET JAYKO

In his letter printed below, reader Albert Fried-Cassorla takes issue with the assertion in a Socialist Workers Party Political Committee statement that the recent Supreme Court ruling restricting the right to abortion represents a "ruling-class drive to overturn abortion rights." The statement, issued July 5, appeared in the July 14 *Militant*.

Fried-Cassorla asks for evidence that "the ruling class is the instigator behind the drive to overturn abortion rights" as opposed to other "reactionary" forces such as the Catholic church hierarchy.

Some of the most convincing bits of evidence of ruling-class culpability are found in the sustained character and

It is true that among the loudest voices in this reactionary chorus have been members of the Catholic and Protestant church hierarchies. In this, however, they were simply playing out their usual role of giving religious cover to the actions of the capitalist ruling class whose interests they serve.

"Abortion is murder!"

The Catholic archbishops pressed to make abortion the "key issue" in the elections. Fundamentalist Protestant preachers like Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell stepped up their antiabortion propaganda.

Reagan and the Republican Party convention openly endorsed legislation that would "make clear that the 14th Amendment protections apply to unborn children."

Prominent liberal Democrats like Geraldine Ferraro, presidential candidate Walter Mondale's running mate, responded by agreeing that abortion is murder, but that as long as a majority supports abortion rights, it shouldn't be made illegal.

There was a wave of bombings and other violent attacks on clinics which perform abortions.

And the offensive has continued, on a federal, state, and local level. From hospitals refusing to perform abortions to attempts by right-wing organizations to get court injunctions preventing individual women from having abortions to violent harassment and blockades of abortion clinics, the right of women to choose abortion has been continually restricted.

The latest court ruling is the biggest single setback since abortion was legalized in 1973.

While there are tactical disagreements within the ruling class on the timing and scope of the assault on abortion, the evidence of a "ruling-class drive to overturn abortion rights" is plentiful, as is the evidence of a ruling-class drive to reverse affirmative action, get rid of busing for school desegregation, and do away with many other hard-fought victories for democratic rights.

What's new and most important for working people, however, is the growing evidence that this offensive will not go unchallenged.

AS I SEE IT

broad scope of the offensive against women's right to choose.

The July 3 Supreme Court ruling upholding the sweeping restrictions on abortion rights contained in a Missouri law did not come out of the blue. It had been preceded and set up by more than a decade of *bipartisan government moves* that narrowed women's access to legal abortion, as part of a broader campaign against the rights and living standards of working people.

This assault on the right to abortion has been accompanied by a sustained reactionary ideological offensive, pushed by the big-business media, capitalist politicians, church figures, and others, against the notion of women's equality in general and the right to abortion in particular. The goal has been to erode existing broad support for legal abortion in order to win acceptance for moves to further curtail — and eventually reverse — that right.

It was under the administration of President James Carter, a Democrat, that the drive against the right of women — *all* women — to choose abortion began in earnest.

It was a bipartisan Congress that adopted the Hyde Amendment in 1976, cutting off Medicaid funds for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or when a woman's life is in danger.

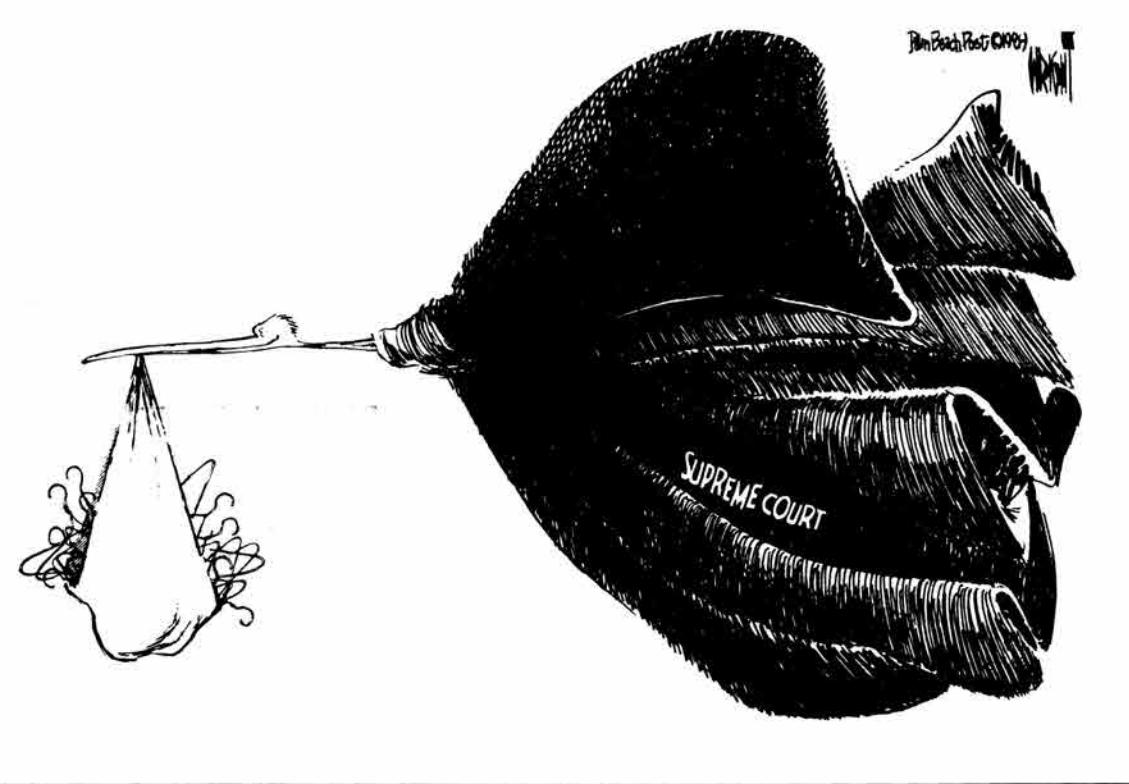
This was justified as part of the belt-tightening moves the capitalists began forcing onto working people since the mid-1970s. The Hyde Amendment made obtaining abortions more difficult for the most impoverished layers of working-class women.

The ideological campaign against abortion rights was well under way during Carter's election campaign in 1976. Both Carter and Republican candidate Gerald Ford were outspoken opponents of women's right to abortion.

The attacks on abortion rights intensified in the 1980s.

Ronald Reagan openly embraced the reactionary "right-to-life" groups. There was a flurry of antiabortion bills in Congress. In March 1981 the Supreme Court upheld a Utah state law making it a crime for doctors to perform an abortion on a minor without notifying her parents first. Two months later Congress voted to cut off federal Medicaid funding for abortions even in cases of rape and incest.

The 1984 presidential elections were used as a staging ground for a major escalation in the ideological offensive against women's rights. The main theme sounded was,



Wright

LETTERS

Population growth

Probably without meaning to, Doug Jenness misrepresented a letter of mine about world population growth in his "Learning About Socialism" column in the July 14 issue. I'd like to set the record straight.

I observed that Karl Marx clearly recognized the importance of both labor and natural resources in the creation of "use values" — the real substance of all material wealth. I then argued that because natural resources are essential, and because the earth's supply is limited, even socialists must worry about overpopulation.

Jenness agreed with me (and with Marx) that nature helps to create all material wealth. But he rejected my argument about overpopulation, saying most resource shortages today stem from capitalism. And he wrote that "where Feeney and others with similar worries go wrong" is by assuming that capitalism will have a "permanent existence," or at least a long life.

This is partly incorrect. I believe that capitalism is helping to destroy the world, and I don't think it can possibly have a "permanent existence" or a long life.

In criticizing my letter, Jenness wrote that private corporations, by rapidly using up and throwing away natural resources for profit, are "hurling us toward destruction." I agree. Furthermore, I think it's obvious that capitalism is also destroying the environment in other ways — for example, by constantly promoting disruptive changes in industrial technology.

As Marx and Engels wrote in the Communist Manifesto, the capitalist system "cannot exist without constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production" and throwing society into perpetual uproar, making effective planning impossible. This country's toxic waste dumps, unforeseen when modern petrochemical production began 50 years ago, are one result of this. The CFC or "freon" refrigerator coolants that today are destroying the ozone layer are another sad result of unplanned technological change by capitalist corporations.

The huge debt payments that big capitalist banks are extracting from Latin America also turn out to have nasty environmental effects. By forcing Third World countries to exploit their resources more to earn

foreign exchange, the debt payments contribute to the world's tropical deforestation crisis.

Adding still further to the developing nations' woes are capitalist world market pressures that during the 1980s have drastically reduced the prices of Third World exports. This forces many poor nations to sell off ever-greater amounts of raw materials for ever-less money, further promoting deforestation and the extinction of endangered species.

This indicates that capitalism is environmentally bankrupt and therefore doomed. But I don't think that just because capitalism is "a" cause of ecological crisis, or even the main cause, it's the *only* cause. Marxism itself suggests that other factors are involved.

Historical materialism, which is at the heart of Marxism, indicates that we must investigate the world scientifically to understand its natural and social laws. We can't deduce all these laws from a few logical principles, even if they're Marxist ones. As Engels explains in *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific*, the principles of dialectics tell us that because everything in the universe is connected, there are many intersecting laws and many causal forces behind each historical event.

In the case of ecological crisis, it's obvious that capitalism is a big part of the problem. But the majority opinion among scientists is that rapid population growth, inappropriate technologies, antiecological cultural attitudes, gaps in our scientific knowledge, and other factors also play a role.

Socialist workers must address all these factors to make an ecological revolution. Exactly because socialist revolution is so important, we can't squander our credibility by blaming every single pollution problem on the fact that "capitalism is bad."

That's just what antisocialist environmentalists predict of us. When we follow their script, they eagerly spread the pernicious lie that socialists don't care about ecology. And, of course, we ourselves risk ignoring information that is vitally necessary to building a better world.

To avoid this, let's look at each ecological issue dialectically, seeing it from several perspectives and thinking carefully how it interacts with other issues. Let's also give each possible cause of crisis — including population growth — the

careful, honest, scientific attention it deserves.

Only in this way can we forge a socialist revolution that makes environmental sense. But that doesn't mean preparing for capitalism to have a "permanent existence."

Andy Feeney
Washington, D.C.

Abortion ruling

The Socialist Workers Party statement on the Supreme Court's abortion rights decision referred to "the ruling-class drive to overturn abortion rights," a phrase I question (see July 14 *Militant*.)

The SWP statement says that the ruling class has an interest in sowing division along as many lines as possible within the working class. I agree.

But to aver that the ruling class is the instigator behind the drive to overturn abortion rights requires proof: concrete evidence. The statement contains no such evidence.

It would not be enough to point to the Supreme Court, saying that they are the ruling class and responsible for the recent decision. As we both agree, they are servants of the ruling class, not the rulers themselves.

The ruling class itself is divided on this issue. Surely many members

of the ultrarich are in favor of abortion rights. If not, how could the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision ever have been made?

Rather, I believe that the term "reactionary" is a more scientific description of the court's recent decision, and of the antiabortion forces. The Catholic church is one of the chief instigators, not the Du Pont or Mellon families — the true ruling class.

I can see some members of the ruling class arguing that a nation filled with indigent women having unwanted babies constitutes an economic drain on the national budget. Further, it threatens their need for a well-trained work force.

I may be wrong on this issue. But to be persuaded, I and perhaps other readers would like to see proof: names of ruling-class individuals and organizations proving unequivocally that the ruling rich are united on this issue.

Yes, the Republicans are foursquare against abortion. But they have other reactionary interests to represent — not just that of the ruling rich.

Regardless, the fight for abortion rights must of course continue: in the streets, courts, and everywhere. Albert Fried-Cassorla
Melrose Park, Pennsylvania

Amtrak workers

Amtrak workers received a favorable response from passengers at Atlanta's Peachtree Station as they warned them of the possibility of a strike on the railroad.

"If you travel by Amtrak, make your plans now for an alternative means of transportation," said a flyer the workers handed out at their informational picket line June 30.

Several unions that organize Amtrak workers joined together in the actions at train stations in about 25 cities. After already cutting their wages between 12 and 15 percent, Amtrak is now coming "to the bargaining table demanding more concessions, cutbacks, and givebacks," the flyer explained.

The pickets also handed out flyers urging solidarity with the Eastern strike: "This is every union's fight. . . . We must join the pickets at Eastern in fighting back."

Liz Ziers
Atlanta, Georgia

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

British gov't, bosses continue attacks against rail workers

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — The government and employers renewed their attack on rail workers following the July 17 rejection by the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) of the latest offer from the British Rail Board.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher condemned the NUR Executive Committee in the House of Commons as failing to show any compassion for the traveling public. Transport Secretary Paul Channon described the NUR decision as "absolutely amazing," while Employment Secretary Norman Fowler described the rejection as "deplorable" and "incomprehensible."

Fowler said he would be drawing up proposals for curbing the right to strike by public-sector unions.

The rail dispute has been going on for five weeks, centering on a campaign of one-day strikes. The industrial action has caused disruption of both freight and passenger traffic. In London, where underground (subway) and bus strikes have also occurred, as many as 50 percent of the capital's workers have been prevented from getting to work on strike days. The London Underground dispute is separate but the workers there are also organized by the rail unions.

The campaign of industrial action has strengthened the union. Each action has been solid, and previously unorganized workers have joined the union.

The rejected offer provided for an 8.8 percent wage increase without strings for all rail workers, leaving the basic weekly rates from £105.30 (\$170) to £180.65 (\$290) depending on grade; further increases worth from 1 to 6 percent for 64,000 workers in South-East England; and the maintenance of a weak form of national bargaining over pay and conditions.

'Final' offer

"British Rail claimed that their latest offer was final. But that's what they said about their previous offers. What shifted them was the strength of the unions' action," said Doreen Weppler, a guard (brakeman) at London's Liverpool Street station.

The dispute started in response to the government-owned company's imposition of a below-inflation pay rise of 7 percent; and their proposal to end national bargaining with the unions over pay and conditions. In place of national bargaining, British Rail wanted to negotiate according to five grades. Their aim was to deepen divisions along skill and grade lines, thereby creating further obstacles to rail workers using the power of their national union in defense of their interests.

Rail unions are already divided according to skill. The train drivers are organized in the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) and the white collar workers in the Transport Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA).

The issues of pay and union rights are at the center of a number of other trade union fights in Britain today. Half a million white collar workers in the National Association of Local Government Officers (NALGO) have taken six days of strike action in pursuit of a 12 percent wage claim and in opposition to employer proposals to break up their negotiating machinery. Like the rail workers, NALGO was offered 7 percent, an informal wage limit set by the government for workers in the public sector.

Other groups of workers who are or have been involved in fights over pay include staff at the British Broadcasting Corporation, college lecturers, steel erectors in London, bus workers in London and Scotland, oil-rig workers, and a number of individual factories in engineering. The outcome of these disputes is being keenly watched by millions of workers with pay claims pending, including

local authority manual workers, post office workers, and workers at Ford, who have traditionally set targets for engineering.

The pay issue has come to the fore because inflation is running at 8.3 percent. For workers in London, the additional costs they face have risen by 16.1 percent over the last year. The 7 percent limit the government wants to impose would therefore mean a wage cut.

"The stakes in this fight are particularly high," Weppler explained, "because over the last 10 years the vast bulk of employed workers have been able to keep their wages ahead of inflation. The decade-long attack by the government and employers has resulted in high unemployment, erosion of the social wage, speed-up, and deteriorating working conditions. But all but the lowest-paid 10 percent have improved their real take-home pay over this period.

"Workers are also determined to resist the drive to further weaken union organization," she added.

Workers on 35 oil rigs in the North Sea

have announced their intention of restarting strikes in response to company refusal to recognize effective unions. Twenty-three rigs have already taken action after the strike had been suspended for negotiations with the Offshore Contractors Council.

Dockers' strike

Dockers have taken all-out strike action in response to the government's decision to eliminate the National Dock Labour Scheme. The Scheme was enacted in 1947. It was the product of persistent union battles which began in 1912 in the Liverpool docks to end casual labor through a register of dockers.

The scheme provided for a National Dock Labour Board with equal numbers of employers and union representatives, and 20 local boards. It legally defined what counted as dock work within the ports in which it applied, provided for a register to prevent the use of casual labor, and gave the local boards rather than employers the power over discipline. Registered dockers laid off by one

company had to be given work by another.

Despite this the number of dockers in registered ports fell from 82,000 in 1951 to 27,000 in 1979 and 9,400 earlier this year, principally as the result of containerization and large enticements to those who would voluntary leave dock work.

The current strike action is demanding a national agreement for all ports along the lines of the scheme with the employers in the previously registered ports.

The strikers have received backing from dockers in Europe. A delegation of dockers went on tour with leaflets in French, German, Dutch, and Swedish. This was followed by a meeting in London convened by the International Transport Federation of dock-union leaders from Belgium, Holland, and West Germany. The equivalent union in France also sent a pledge of solidarity to the meeting, which aimed to minimize the impact of employer attempts to divert to the Continent cargo normally handled by strike-bound British ports.

Nurses reject contract after a 12-day strike in British Columbia

BY FRED NELSON

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — In a provincewide vote on July 12, the British Columbia Nurses Union voted 65 percent to reject a tentative contract.

The proposed contract had been agreed to by union officials after a 12-day strike by 17,500 nurses. The agreement called for six wage increases of 3 to 6 percent spread out over a three-year contract.

The nurses' union leadership had recommended acceptance of the proposal as had the Hospital Labor Relations Association (HLRA), which bargained for the government-financed hospitals. British Columbia Federation of Labor President Ken Georgetti and Jack Munro, president of International Woodworkers of America (Canada), both praised the tentative settlement.

On the same day, the 29,000-member Hospital Employees Union, representing non-medical workers, announced that it had accepted a 12.6 percent wage increase over two years. The vote was 70 percent in favor.

As soon as the tentative agreement was announced, the nurses mobilized opposition to the proposed yes vote. A major complaint was that the contract did not offer a wage raise or improve conditions enough to attract more people to nursing. Long working days, pressure to work long overtime, and low pay have resulted in a shortage of nurses.

The response on the picket line to the proposed agreement was anger. "This strike is like a grass roots revolution," said striker Lil Chrzan at Vancouver General Hospital. "We are not looking to our leadership, because they have sold us out. We want them to be accountable to us, because we are the union," she stressed. Chrzan voiced the opinion of many coworkers and added that the nurses would do "whatever is necessary to get the contract we need."

On June 27 more than 1,000 Vancouver-area nurses met to hear union President Pat Savage explain the proposal. She was met with catcalls, boos, and chants of "say no, say no."

Under pressure from the membership Savage withdrew the union leadership's recommendation to ratify the proposed contract. But, the next day Savage reversed her position and launched a two-week campaign to



Nurses on strike in Vancouver, Canada.

sell the package to the membership.

Responding to the groundswell of rank-and-file opposition, the government and the HLRA declared no more money was available for the nurses.

"I don't believe it for a moment," said Margaret Petrang. She was picketing outside New Westminster's Royal Columbian Hospital. "They seem to have money for everything else," she said. Many nurses pointed to a \$1 billion "budget stabilization fund" the government has at its disposal.

Opposition to the proposed contract was organized and led by nurses at the province's largest hospital, Vancouver General.

Bernadette Stringer, a leader of the strike committee at Vancouver General and of the campaign against the proposed contract, explained, "We are not alone. We are getting calls from around the province supporting us. Nurses are saying that the contract is not acceptable and that we want to fight for more."

Debra McPherson, another leader of the vote no campaign, received nods of agreement from other nurses when she explained, "If we are afraid to stand up and fight, we

are just doing the government's job for them."

Nurses in the Vancouver area held several public demonstrations even after picket lines came down and nurses returned to work because of the tentative agreement. On July 1 more than 1,000 nurses attended meetings at Vancouver General Hospital. Over \$3,000 was raised to tour Stringer and McPherson across the province to explain to other nurses why the contract should be rejected.

Editorials in the province's major dailies have pushed the idea that the outcome of this fight is now out of the hands of the nurses and lies instead with the government, labor laws, and the courts.

The nurses see it differently. "It will be the actions of the nurses themselves" that will determine who emerges victorious in this fight McPherson said. A unionwide ban on overtime and acceptance of nonnursing duties remains in place for the nurses.

In Québec nurses recently voted to reject a proposed contract and carried out a similar ban against overtime. This was ruled illegal by the courts, bringing about a situation where hospitals in Québec can only function through forced overtime.